

# STARS AND STRIPES<sup>®</sup>

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SATURDAY, JULY 31, 2004

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AP photos

Left: Democratic presidential nominee John Kerry yells to the crowd after his acceptance speech Thursday at the Democratic National Convention at the FleetCenter in Boston. Above: Kerry and Democratic vice presidential candidate John Edwards arrive for a rally at Boston Harbor on Friday. The candidates are heading out on a cross-country campaign trip, visiting states by bus, boat and train.

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## News Tracker ... What's new with old news

### World

**Madrid train bombings:** An Italian court held a hearing Friday on Spain's request for the extradition of an alleged mastermind of the Madrid train bombings but made no immediate decision, a lawyer for the Egyptian suspect said.

Viviana Bossi, defense lawyer for Egyptian Rabei Osman Ahmed, said she expected a ruling from the Milan court in the "next few days."

Osman Ahmed was arrested June 7 on an international warrant issued by Spanish authorities, and is held in Milan. Milan prosecutors have approved the extradition request, but are now seeking the required court approval.

Bossi said she opposed the request on the grounds that Osman Ahmed already was under investigation in Italy, and that another Italian court had yet to rule on whether police wiretaps on her client could be used as evidence.

**Sept. 11 suspect:** Germany has sent U.S. authorities a detailed query asking for as much testimony as possible from key suspects in the upcoming retrial of a Sept. 11 suspect in Hamburg.

Moumir el Motassaddi, 30, was convicted in February 2003 of providing logistical help to the Hamburg al-Qaida cell and sentenced to 15 years in prison on more than 3,000 counts of accessory to murder and membership in a terrorist organization.

He won a retrial in March, however, after appeals judges ruled he was unfairly denied testimony from Rami Binalshihb, a Yemeni in U.S. custody who is believed to have been the Hamburg cell's key contact with al-Qaida. Judges freed him from prison at the same time, saying there was no longer enough evidence to hold him pending his retrial, scheduled to start August 10.

**Israeli nuclear whistleblower:** Israeli police have begun a criminal investigation against nuclear whistleblower Mordechai Vanunu over interviews he gave to foreign media in an apparent breach of a court order, Israeli officials said Thursday.

The Justice Ministry said in a statement that Israel's security services believe that during the interviews with the British Broadcasting Corp. and the London Sunday Times, given shortly after his release from prison in April, Vanunu made references to secret material he was forbidden to discuss.

The statement gave no further details about Vanunu's alleged violations. As a condition of his release, Vanunu was barred from speaking to foreign journalists.

**Pinochet's son detained:** The older son of former dictator Gen. Augusto Pinochet was detained Thursday as part of an investigation of a group accused of forging invoices for the sale of vehicles, police said.

Pinochet's son, also named Augusto, was transferred to Curico, 116 miles south of



**Enron scandal:** Kenneth Rice, who once led Enron Corp.'s high-speed Internet unit, leaves federal court in Houston after pleading guilty to securities fraud. Rice was charged in May 2003 with selling 1.2 million shares of Enron stock for more than \$76 million while he knew Enron Broadband Services was failing.

Santiago, where the court handling the case extended his detention until Saturday to allow the prosecution to file charges. A new legal hearing will take place that day.

Augusto Pinochet Hiriart's lawyer, Aldo Lague, said the court agreed to allow his client to remain detained at the local prison's infirmary instead of being taken to a regular cell.

**Tamil rebels' child soldiers:** Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebels have released 34 children soldiers, the U.N. children's agency UNICEF said Friday.

The 21 girls and 13 boys ages 14-17 were released Thursday to a UNICEF-administered transit center in the rebels' northern heartland of Kilinochchi, said Geoffrey Keele, a spokesman for the agency.

"UNICEF welcomes the release of these children" and "looks forward to a renewed commitment by the (Tamil Tigers) to cease all child recruitment and to release those children currently in their ranks," Keele said.

More than 1,000 child fighters were freed in April after an unprecedented split in the rebel group.

### Nation

**D.C.-area sniper attacks:** A court hearing for sniper mastermind John Allen Muhammad was delayed briefly Thursday after Muhammad waived out of a chain strapped around his waist.

Muhammad was placed back into full restraints without incident, but for a few minutes he was in the courtroom with a lengthy

chain gathered in his hands that authorities said was a potential weapon.

Lt. Tony Shobe, a spokesman for the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office, said deputies did not notice the missing chain when they brought Muhammad from a holding cell back to the courtroom after a 15-minute recess. Within a minute or two of court resuming, deputies noticed the chain and alerted the judge, who stopped the proceedings.

**Calif. grocery strike:** Ralphs Grocery Co. has acknowledged in a letter to its employees that some store managers allowed locked-out grocery clerks to work during the 141-day Southern California grocery strike in violation of the company's own policies.

In the letter, John Burgon, president of Ralphs Supermarkets, said the company is cooperating with a federal investigation into the charges.

"We have now determined that some of the reports of misconduct are correct," Burgon wrote in a letter dated Tuesday.

Burgon wrote that disciplinary action will be taken against store managers and other officials found to have violated the company's policies. Discipline could range from a one-week suspension to firing, he wrote.

Union leaders ordered the strike against Safeway's Vons and Pavilions chains on Oct. 11. Albertsons and Ralphs, a unit of Kroger, then locked out their employees. In all, about 59,000 workers were idled at 859 stores.

**NYS Sept. 11 aid:** The Bush administration has agreed to pay New York \$2 billion in extra transportation money in exchange for unused tax credits that were part of a \$20 billion Sept. 11 aid package, a plan that must now go to Congress for approval.

The cash-for-credit swap has been discussed for months among the White House, state and city officials, and members of Congress.

Gov. George Pataki received a call from the White House on Thursday, informing him that President Bush has approved the request from the city and state to redirect up to \$2 billion in Liberty Zone tax benefits toward transportation projects.

**Ban on sex toys:** A group of adult-product merchants and customers trying to overturn Alabama's ban on the sale of sex toys will challenge an appeals court ruling that upheld the 6-year-old law, their lawyer said Thursday.

Plaintiffs will likely ask the full 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to rehear the case since a divided three-judge panel issued the decision, said attorney Mike Fees, representing store owner Sherri Williams and nine other people who sued to overturn the law.

Depending on what the full court decides, the Supreme Court could be asked to review the case, he said.

In a 2-1 decision Tuesday, the 11th Circuit overturned a lower court and upheld a state law banning the sale of devices designed to stimulate human genitals. The court ruled the state has a legal right to regulate the sale of sex toys and decided the Constitution doesn't include a right to sexual privacy.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

### Clarification

The caption accompanying a photo of the painting of the static aircraft at RAF Lakenheath, England, in Thursday's paper was incomplete. The painting is a project of Fangeos Contractors of Canvey Island, England.

### Correction

In a story in Friday's editions, the wrong base was given for the 2nd Space Operations Squadron. The unit is based at Schriever Air Force Base, Colo.

### To our readers

Stars and Stripes newspapers were distributed late in the United Kingdom on Friday because of production problems. Stripes regrets any inconvenience to readers.

# NATO agrees to begin training Iraqi forces

BY CONSTANT BRAND  
The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium — NATO nations agreed Friday to begin training Iraqi forces, a NATO official said. No details of the agreement were immediately available.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said an agreement was reached but did not explain how it resolved a dispute between France and the United States over command and control.

Paris had objected to an American general heading the mission. Secretary-General Jaap de

Hoop Scheffer was to brief reporters later on the details of the agreement.

Washington had insisted the commander of the NATO mission be linked to the U.S.-led coalition, which will be providing protection.

The deal was reached after three days of marathon talks between NATO's 26 ambassadors and de Hoop Scheffer, who wanted an agreement this week.

The deal means a planned exploratory mission to Iraq will go ahead in August, an official said.

NATO ambassadors reconvened Friday after consulting capitals on the last outstanding issues.

Paris, which abandoned its objections to a NATO presence inside Iraq, rejected the idea of placing the mission under the operational command of U.S. Gen. George Casey, the senior U.S. officer in Iraq.

Washington argues the idea is the best way to protect the mission and ensure its effectiveness.

The U.S. proposal had the backing of a majority of the 26 NATO nations, but unanimity is needed for a decision.

Paris suggested postponing a decision on command until September to let the first phase of the mission begin Aug. 6.

A U.S. official declined to comment on the French position. But Washington has pushed for a full decision now so that training can begin quickly in response to urgent pleas from the new Iraqi government.

NATO leaders agreed to the missions at their summit a month ago but left details vague.

Another outstanding issue had to do with whether the mission should be funded by all allies, like the NATO peacekeeping mission in Afghanistan, or only by those sending troops. Diplomats said they thought that was easier to solve than the command question.

The command issue is especially sensitive to Paris and a handful of other countries that opposed the U.S.-led war and have refused to send troops to help with the aftermath.

The initial mission NATO intends to send Aug. 6 would comprise only 30 or so people and report back to NATO headquarters Sept. 15, followed by a larger mission.

So far NATO's role in Iraq has been limited to providing logistical backup to a Polish-led division working with the American troops. Although 16 NATO members already have some troops there, they are not under the NATO flag.

# Marines, Iraqi forces attack insurgents in Fallujah

BY RAVI NESSMAN  
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Fierce overnight fighting between Marines and Iraqi insurgents in Fallujah killed 13 Iraqis and wounded 14 others in a series of gunfights, mortar barrages and airstrikes, local officials said Friday.

Many of those wounded, including at least one child, appeared to be civilians injured in the U.S. airstrikes, hospital officials said. The military said the insurgents started the fighting by ambushing a patrol and then fled into buildings in the city.

Iraq has been beset by surging violence in recent weeks, including a wave of kidnappings and a devastating car bombing Thursday that killed at least 70 people.

Iraqi interim President Ghazi al-Yawer said the violence proved insurgents were growing desperate.

"I think the bad guys, the enemy, the army of the darkness is getting more helpless and hopeless, that is why they are stepping up these things. Time and the place is on our side," al-Yawer said after a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell, the highest-ranking U.S. official to visit since the handover of sovereignty last month.

During his brief, unannounced trip here Friday, Powell said the United States would speed up the slow pace of reconstruction funds to rebuild the infrastructure and create jobs, which will reduce support for the insurgency.

"We want to show the Iraqi people that this money is being used for their benefit and do it as quickly as we can," Powell said.

Also Friday, a deadline set by militants to save the life of a captive truck driver expired. The militants, who are holding seven foreign hostages from India, Kenya and Egypt, threatened to kill one of the men Friday evening if its demands, including a pullout by their company, were not met.

The drivers' company, Kuwait and Gulf Link Transport Co., said Friday it was sending an official to Iraq to work with Sheikh Hisham al-Duleimi, head of an organization of Iraqi tribal leaders trying to negotiate the hostages' release.

Al-Duleimi said Friday he has been negotiating with Egyptian and Indian officials regarding the captives, but had not yet spoken to the kidnappers.



Two men look over battle damage in Fallujah, Iraq, on Friday. Hospital officials said at least 13 Iraqis were killed during fierce fighting between U.S. forces and insurgents Thursday in Fallujah. U.S. Marines said they suffered no casualties.

"I appeal to the kidnappers to be patient and to refrain from beheading one of the hostages and to extend the deadline until positive results can be reached," he said.

In northern India, villagers demanding the hostages' release detained 37 foreign tourists, most of them from Britain, for 18 hours. The tourists were released Friday after police persuaded the angry villagers to let them pass.

In Jordan, the relatives of four Jordanian truck drivers held by a different group joined with fellow drivers in chanting "Death to America" during a protest march they hoped would help free the captives.

The kidnappers called the families Thursday and told them to hold the protest as a condition for their release,

said Mohammed Abu Jaafar, whose brother Ahmad is one of the hostages.

Overnight in Fallujah, U.S. Marines and Iraqi troops engaged in an hours-long battle with insurgents that spilled into an industrial area of the city. Witnesses reported hearing aircraft on bombing runs and scores of mortar rounds fired toward an American base.

The military said the fighting began Thursday night when insurgents with gunfire, mortars and rocket propelled grenades attacked a joint patrol of Marines and Iraqi troops.

The Marines responded with tank and artillery fire at the mortar positions, several hundred meters away, the military said. Iraqi insurgents fled into buildings, which the Marines targeted with airstrikes and artillery, the military said.

The Marines said they suffered no casualties.

Twelve auto repair shops and two houses were destroyed.

An estimated 13 Iraqis were killed and 14 others wounded during the fighting, said Dr. Salim Ibrahim at Fallujah General Hospital.

Ibrahim could not give an exact count of the dead, because many bodies had been torn apart in the bombings.

An injured man, lying in a bed at the hospital with his pants covered in blood, tiredly asked, "What was our fault?" according to Associated Press Television News footage. "My mother and sister were killed."

A medical worker bandaged a crying toddler's forehead that was covered with blood. "This is just a child ... does he look like a terrorist?" an angry man asked.

The Marines said they did everything possible to avert civilian casualties.

"Our forces go to extraordinary lengths to minimize the impact of military action upon civilians," Marines spokesman Lt. Col. T.V. Johnson said.

But when insurgents occupy residential areas, "they exponentially increase the risk for civilians," he said.

# U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Thursday, 909 U.S. servicemembers have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq in March 2003, according to the Defense Department. Of those, 674 died as a result of hostile action and 235 died of non-hostile causes.

The British military has reported 60 deaths; Italy, 18; Spain, eight; Poland, seven; Bulgaria, six; Ukraine, four; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia and the Netherlands have reported one each death.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 771 U.S. troops have died — 565 as a result of hostile action and 206 of non-hostile causes.

The latest deaths reported by U.S. Central Command:

■ A soldier was killed Thursday when his patrol was attacked near Hawija, Iraq.

■ Two Marines assigned to the 1st Expeditionary Force were killed Wednesday in separate incidents in Anbar province.

The latest identifications reported by the Defense Department:

■ Marine Lt. Col. David S. Greene, 39, Raleigh, N.C.; killed Wednesday in fighting in Anbar province, Iraq; assigned to the Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 775, Marine Aircraft Group 16, 3d Marine Air Wing, Marine Corps Air Station, Miramar, Calif.

■ Army Sgt. DeForest L. Talbert, 24, Charleston, W.Va.; killed Tuesday in an explosion in Baladruq, Iraq; assigned to the Army National Guards 1st Battalion, 150th Armor Regiment, Beckley, W.Va.

# T Pakistani official survives attack

## Blast targets prime minister designate's motorcade

BY PAUL HAVEN  
The Associated Press

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Pakistani Prime Minister designate Shaukat Aziz survived an apparent suicide bomb attack on his motorcade Friday that killed at least four people and injured two dozen, police and other officials said.

The attack came the same day the government announced the arrest of a suspected senior al-Qaida operative on the FBI's most-wanted list.

It was not clear who he was behind it, but suspicion fell immediately on Islamic militants, angry over the government's decision to back the U.S.-led war on terrorism. On Thursday, the government acknowledged that it has held talks with Saudi officials about sending troops to Iraq as part of a Muslim peacekeeping force.

The bombing occurred at about 7:20 p.m. as Aziz, the finance minister who has already been targeted to take over as prime minister, was traveling through a bazaar in Fateh Jang, a town 35 miles southwest of the capital, Islamabad, said Mohammed Haidar, a local police official.

An Interior Ministry spokesman said at least four people were killed and two dozen injured in the attack.

Haidar said Aziz's driver was among the dead but the senior politician escaped without serious injury. Geo Television reported six dead and 25 injured.

"I spoke with Shaukat Aziz. There was an explosion close to his car. His driver and a suicide attacker were killed," Sen. Mushaid Hussain, a member of Aziz's ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Q party, told The Associated Press. "He was calm, cool and composed."

Hussain said Aziz told him that an explosion went off after a man — the presumed suicide bomber — approached his car on foot on the busy street.

Mohammed Hussain, a senior Aziz aide, said the 60-year-old politician was safe. Another source close to Aziz told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity that the politician had returned to his home in the capital, Islamabad.

Aziz, a former Citibank executive credited with turning around Pakistan's economy under President Gen. Pervez Musharraf, was in Fateh Jang to campaign for an upcoming bi-election in an effort to win a seat in the lower house.

Musharraf's ruling party has said they want him to be prime minister, but the senator must first gain a seat in the Aug. 18 vote to be eligible. A victory is all but assured.

Opposition parties have denounced the proceedings as an affront to Pakistani democracy, five years after Musharraf seized power in a bloodless coup.

After Prime Minister Zafarullah Khan Jamali stepped down last month, Chaudry Shujaat Hussain was appointed caretaker prime minister while the political machinations are completed to allow Aziz to step in.

The attack followed the announcement early Friday that Pakistan had arrested Ahmed Khalaf Ghailani, a Tanzanian on the FBI's most wanted list who is wanted in the 1998 twin embassy bombings in East Africa.

Hussain said there was no evidence that the two were linked.

The attack also follows two attempts by Islamic militants in December 2003 to assassinate Musharraf, the ultimate power broker in this conservative Islamic nation of 150 million people.



Shaukat Aziz

# GI convicted of stealing sheik's SUV

BY KIMBERLY HEFFLING  
The Associated Press

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. — A soldier was convicted of stealing an Iraqi sheik's sport utility vehicle at a hearing, but probably won't spend any time behind bars.

Besides armed robbery, Sgt. 1st Class James Williams was also found guilty of willful dereliction of duty for allowing his soldiers to consume alcohol in Iraq.

Eight jurors, all members of the military, recommended that Williams not be sentenced to prison but instead be demoted to private and receive a bad conduct discharge. The sentence must be approved by his commanding general, Maj. Gen. Tom Turner of the 101st Airborne Division.

Williams, 37, of Westmoreland County, Virginia, faced up to 15 years in prison. He has 17 years' Army experience, including combat duty in the first Iraq war.

Throughout the three-day trial, Williams maintained that he took the SUV only because he was ordered to by his lieutenant and because he did not think it was a criminal act.

"In his mind there was nothing wrong with doing it," Williams' civilian defense attorney, Bernard Casey, said in closing arguments Thursday.

Casey said he plans to appeal. Williams declined to comment.

Capt. Howard Hoeg, an Army prosecutor, said Thursday in closing arguments that Williams helped take the SUV at gunpoint from the sheik's son, who was driving the vehicle. He then participated in orchestrating a cover story that the vehicle was found abandoned, Hoeg said.

The accused had a criminal mind through every stage of the crime," Hoeg said.

With tears rolling down his face when the sentence was read, Williams put his chin down. "We're lucky that he got this sentence," said Williams' wife, Kim Williams. "It could have been a lot worse."

Early in the war, soldiers were allowed to "commandeer" a civilian vehicle for military purposes under the rules of engagement. They were instructed



Sgt. 1st Class James Williams, center, with his wife, Kim, at right, leaves military court earlier this week during a break at Fort Campbell, Ky. Williams was convicted Thursday on charges of armed robbery and willful dereliction of duty stemming from a carjacking in Mosul, Iraq, in late April 2003.

to leave a receipt so the vehicle could be returned to the owner or money could be given to them.

But Hoeg said Williams and the other soldiers with him just wanted a "sweet ride" and didn't leave a receipt with the sheik's son.

The day the SUV was taken, Williams testified that Lt. Bradley Pavlik threw a tantrum because two of the platoon's four vehicles — including Pavlik's — were broken down, and he told squad leaders to find him another one.

The opportunity arose later that day during a trip to the market when the SUV cut off another Humvee in a two-vehicle convoy Williams was in, he said. After about a five-minute chase, the SUV stopped, and the SUV was taken without force, Williams said. Casey said the men did not leave a receipt because they felt the Iraq was hostile, and they needed to leave in a hurry.

The Army later paid Sheik Ahmed W. Al-Faisal \$32,000.

Another soldier, Alberto Lozano, was convicted earlier in the case and sentenced to 30 months in prison, but the sentence was reduced to one year because he testified against Williams. He was released recently after serving about nine months at Fort Knox, with time off for good conduct. Pavlik, the lieutenant, faces a court-martial starting Aug. 9.

# Commanders say Iraqi didn't drown in bridge incident

BY ROBERT WELLER  
The Associated Press

FORT CARSON, Colo. — Testing during interagency, three U.S. Army commanders admitted Friday that soldiers were told to cover up an incident in which two Iraqi civilians were forced off a bridge into the Tigris River, where family members say one of them drowned. The commanders, however, said they don't believe anyone died, despite what the family and prosecutors say.

Capt. Matthew Cunningham said soldiers under his command admitted they forced the Iraqis to jump into the river last Jan. 3.

He said the soldiers told him they had the Iraqis "get wet" and that "they wanted to make them miserable a little bit and walk home."

He said it was a bad decision, but that soldiers had to have non-lethal ways to make their presence felt in the area. He called the suggestion that anyone drowned a "smear campaign" and said soldiers saw the civilians getting out of the river safely.

Cunningham also testified that he and other commanders told the soldiers to claim up because they feared higher-ups in the chain of command would use the incident against them.

"We were not covering up anything that injured anybody," he said.

The testimony came on the third and final day of a hearing to determine whether three soldiers will be court-martialed in the inci-

dent. Family members in Iraq say Zaidoun Hassoun, 19, drowned and they will exhumate his body to prove it, a cousin survived.

Sgt. 1st Class Tracy E. Perkins, 35, and Sgt. Reginald Martin, 24, are charged with involuntary manslaughter, as is Lt. Lt. Jack M. Saville, 24, whose hearing will be held later. The third defendant at this week's hearing, Sgt. Terry Bowman, 21, is charged with assault for allegedly pushing the cousin into the river.

The hearing officer, Capt. Robert Ayers, will make a recommendation later on whether the men should face a court-martial. The four soldiers face 5½ years to 26½ years in prison if they are convicted.

Cunningham, a company commander in the brigade, testified along with deputy battalion commander Maj. Robert Gwinner, and battalion commander Lt. Col. Nathan Sassaman. All three were granted immunity in return for their testimony.

Gwinner said the incident was the result of clash between Sassaman and the brigade's then-commander, Col. Frederick Rudesheim.

Gwinner said Sassaman instructed soldiers not to tell investigators they had forced the Iraqis to jump in the river because he was concerned the investigation was "a personal vendetta between he and Col. Rudesheim." Gwinner said the brigade commander was jealous of Sassaman, a former star quarterback at West Point, because he was very aggressive and getting lots of television coverage.



# 'A friend of al-Qaida'

## Informant says captured suspect was key member of cell assigned to bomb U.S. Embassy in Tanzania

BY CHRIS TOMLINSON

The Associated Press

**NAIROBI, Kenya** — Baby-faced and slightly built, Ahmed Khalifan Ghailani didn't present a physical threat, but his knowledge of explosives and commitment to radical Islam made the Tanzanian one of the most sought-after accused terrorists in the world with a \$25 million price on his head.

Arrested in Pakistan after a fierce gunfight, Ghailani had spent six years underground, evading an FBI-led manhunt and avoiding capture despite the bounty and a prominent listing among America's 22 most wanted terrorists.

Ghailani is believed to have been born in early 1974 on Zanzibar, a semiautonomous archipelago off the coast of Tanzania.

Despite being located only 25 miles off the African coast, the islands were once the seat of the Sultanate of Oman and remain 95 percent Muslim and the people and cities look more Arab in appearance than African.

But during his childhood, Tanzania — and by extension Zanzibar — was ruled by a secular, socialist government made up mostly of mainland Christians, and devout Muslims were treated with suspicion.

While in his late twenties, Ghailani dedicated himself to Islam and became a tabligh, or missionary.

While most tabligh practice moderate Islam, a growing minority travel the world, visiting mosques and preaching the hatred of Western culture that is the hallmark of radical Islam.

Little is known about Ghailani during this period in his life, but most tabligh at some point visit Pakistan for theological training.

Once there, some of the more extreme Muslims — like American John Walker Lindh, who fought with the Taliban — were recruited to attend al-Qaida training camps in Afghanistan.

By the time he joined the al-Qaida cell in East Africa, the 5-foot-3-inch, 150-pound young man already had acquired the skills and philosophy to carry out a terrorist attack.

Known among his al-Qaida peers as Ahmed the Tanzanian, he was introduced to new recruits as "a friend of al-Qaida," convicted bomber Mohammed Sadiq Odeh told the FBI, according to an official transcript.

He was a key member of the cell assigned to attack the U.S. Embassy in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, a bombing that killed 12 people, all Africans, and injured 85 others.

Ghailani was responsible for obtaining the parts needed to construct the bomb, including the steel cylinders, TNT and detonators, another convicted bomber, Khalifan Khamis Mohamed, reportedly told the FBI.

Mohamed said that Ghailani didn't know how to drive a car, so he would ride his bicycle around Dar es Salaam and then get another al-Qaida member, who could drive, to bring a sports utility vehicle to pick up purchases too large for him to carry.

Ghailani joined the rest of the East Africa al-Qaida cell ring leaders in Nairobi on Aug. 6, 1998 and



Ahmed Khalifan Ghailani

flew to Karachi on a Kenyan Airways flight before the bombs even exploded, Odeh said, according to the FBI transcript.

Until his arrest, that was the last known sighting of Ghailani.

By the time Ghailani was arrested Sunday in the eastern city of Gujarat along with at least 15 other people, he seemed to have sunk family roots inside Pakistan.

Ghailani's wife, an Uzbek woman, also was arrested, along with several of his children, according to Brig. Javed Iqbal Cheema, who is in charge of coordinating Pakistan's counterterrorism effort.

Like Ghailani, many Uzbek opposition figures fled to Afghanistan and then to Pakistan, where they get training and mingle with like-minded al-Qaida and other militants.

### 1st ID GI killed

A 1st Infantry Division soldier was killed by insurgents Thursday afternoon when his multinational patrol came under small-arms fire near Hawjin in northern Iraq.

The soldier, whose name wasn't released pending notification of his family, was evacuated to a military medical facility where he was pronounced dead, according to a Multinational Force Iraq news release.

Also on Thursday, 1st ID and Iraqi National Guard soldiers detained 39 people during an early morning raid against an insurgent cell.

Two of the 39, Imran Aziz Ahmen Thabe and Nsaif Lateef Hadi, were wanted by officials. The cell was suspected of seven roadside bomb attacks against multinational forces since March.

### Explosives seized

ISTANBUL, Turkey — Turkish authorities found about 220 pounds of plastic explosives Friday hidden in a truck that was crossing into Turkey from neighboring Iraq, an official said.

Authorities believe autonomy-seeking Kurdish rebels, who recently ended a five-year unilateral cease-fire, intended to use the explosives for attacks in Turkey, the official added.

From staff and wire reports

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# Shared sacrifices

## Schweinfurt troops remember soldiers killed in combat

BY STEVE LIEWER

Stars and Stripes

SCHWEINFURT, Germany — Pfc. Nicholas Zangara and Pfc. Nicholas Blodgett probably never met, and they didn't have much in common. One came from the city, the other from the suburbs; one brash, the other reserved; one married, one a bachelor.

But they shared the same first name, and a calling, and a sacrifice.

On Thursday, their boots, rifles, helmets and photos stood side-by-side on the altar of the Ledward Barracks chapel in Schweinfurt as more than 200 friends and fellow soldiers gathered to remember their lives while mourning their combat deaths.

"Both of these soldiers named Nicholas have shown their love. They laid down their lives for us," said Maj. David Mikkelsen, chap-



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

**Above: Soldiers give final salutes to Spc. Nicholas Zangara and Pfc. Nicholas Blodgett, following a memorial service in Schweinfurt, Germany, on Thursday. Right: A soldier says one last goodbye to the 1st Infantry Division soldiers who were killed in Iraq.**

lain for the Schweinfurt-based 280th Base Support Battalion. "We need great friends like Nicholas Zangara and Nicholas Blodgett."

Blodgett, 21, grew up in Wyoming, Mich., and graduated from Grand Rapids Central Catholic High School in 2002. He played trumpet in the school band and practiced taekwon do.

After joining the Army in May 2003, he landed in Germany with the 1st Infantry Division's 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment. He trained first as a driver, then as a dismounted scout, in the unit's Troop A before the unit deployed to Iraq in February.

Blodgett had joined more than 100 patrols when he and his squad left Forward Operating Base McKenzie, 60 miles north of Baghdad, late on the night of July 20 for a patrol in nearby Abdal-yuhay. He was driving — filling in for another soldier on R&R leave — when his Bradley fighting vehicle hit a roadside bomb. He died, and six of his buddies were injured.

His troop commander, Capt. Cory Mack, remembered

Blodgett as a "highly motivated and disciplined soldier, answering every question with 'Yes, sir' or 'Roger, sergeant.'"

Friends recalled a quiet, gangly trooper who stood 6-foot-5, had a quirky sense of humor, and who was a third-level master in the role-playing game "Dungeons and Dragons."

"He didn't care about the politics, he didn't care what the American people thought of what we were doing," said his "battle buddy," Pfc. Adrian Stone. "He cared that we all got home alive."

Blodgett is survived by his parents, Robert and Rita, and his 20-year-old brother, Matthew.

Zangara, 21, was born in Philadelphia, 25 days after Blodgett.

He joined the Army straight out of high school and landed with the Schweinfurt-based 1st



Zangara



Blodgett

vised bomb exploded behind the road and lacerated him with shrapnel.

Only a little while earlier, he had called his wife, Melanie, to wish her a happy birthday, according to the Delaware County (Pa.) Daily Times newspaper. He told her he would be going home

on leave next week.

His buddies remembered "Specialist Z" as a fun-loving motor mouth who loved Philadelphia sports teams and always had a wisecrack on the tip of his tongue. But he was serious about the Army, and he knew his weapons systems cold.

"He came to the unit a little energy bug. He could always be heard in the hallways involved in something, so I rode him probably harder than any other soldier," said his platoon sergeant, Sgt. 1st Class "Smoke" Bell, in comments read at his memorial. "His favorite saying was, 'I'm not complaining, I'm just telling the truth.' I respected that courage."

Besides his wife, of Jackson Township, Pa., Zangara is survived by his parents, Richard Zangara and Barbara Burgstahler, and his step-children, Bridget Zangara and Ed Burgstahler, all of Philadelphia.

E-mail Steve Liewer at: [liewers@mail.strips.osd.mil](mailto:liewers@mail.strips.osd.mil)



**Spc. Daniel May, of the U.S. Army Europe Band and Choir, plays taps at the service Thursday.**

## Marine's 'Fahrenheit 9/11' comments investigated

BY SANDRA JONTZ

Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — Comments made by Marine Cpl. Abdul Henderson in Michael Moore's controversial film "Fahrenheit 9/11" prompted the Marine's commanders to look into the appropriateness of his film debut.

Henderson, a reservist with the 3rd Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company out of Long Beach, Calif., was featured, wearing his service dress Alpha uniform, alongside Moore outside the U.S. Capitol as the pair unsuccessfully solicited legislators to enlist their children into the U.S. military and to fight in the war in Iraq.

At one time, Moore asked the 29-year-old Marine, who served in Iraq last year, whether he'd return to the Middle East to fight again.

Moore: "If you get called up, will you go back to Iraq?"

Henderson: "No."  
Moore: "Why not?"

Henderson: "No."

Moore: "What repercussions do you face if you don't..."

Henderson: "It's possible jail time. That's one possible thing."

Moore: "Are you willing to risk that?" Henderson: "Yes. Yes, I will not let my person... I will, I will not let anyone send me back over there to kill other poor people. Especially when they pose no threat to me and my country. I won't do it."

Henderson's comments and big-screen appearance — in a scene in which Moore is poked fun at lawmakers by saying that of 535 Congress members, only one has a child serving in the Middle East — prompted Henderson's commanders to investigate his association with the film, said Capt. Peter Kerr, a spokesman for Marine Forces Reserves in New Orleans.

Army and Marine Corps officials interviewed by Stars and Stripes know of no other servicemembers in the film who were being investigated. Marine Corps recruiters who appear, for example, were

filmed under misleading pretenses, a Marine Corps official said.

But no one is labeling Henderson a deserter, Kerr said. In fact, his California-based unit hasn't been called up.

"There is just no indication that his unit is going to be activated again," Kerr said.

"It's the fact that he was wearing the uniform (in the movie), and they are just determining if there were improprieties related to his role in the movie," Kerr said.

Of course, the Corps will be watching to see, if his unit is reactivated, whether Henderson will follow through on his pledge to not go. But at this point, it's all speculative, Kerr said. Deserter is punishable from an administrative discharge to a court-martial and possible jail time.



Henderson

Henderson could not be reached by Stars and Stripes for comment, but in an interview featured in Wednesday's edition of USA Today, the paper quoted Henderson as saying: "The question kind of surprised me, because I wasn't expecting it. But my answer came from the heart."

Kerr doesn't know what spurred the probe by Henderson's commanders.

"This definitely is not anything routine, where a Marine appears in a movie, especially in a movie of this nature," Kerr said. Henderson is a fire supportman with the 3rd ANGLICO, which helps coordinate artillery fire and naval gunfire for U.S. Army and coalition ground forces.

According to the USA Today article, he describes himself as a spiritual Christian, and prefers to remain out of the limelight. Henderson, a business major at California State University-Los Angeles is spending the summer in Washington, D.C., with his wife, a student at Howard University, and their newborn son.

E-mail Sandra Jontz at: [jontzs@strips.osd.mil](mailto:jontzs@strips.osd.mil)

# Older reservists set off military age debate

BY MICHAEL VIRTANEN

The Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. — The National Guard and Reserves will soon account for nearly half of the 140,000 U.S. soldiers in Iraq, kindling debate about whether older part-timers are best suited to the war zone.

Some veterans argue that the younger, active duty soldier is in better physical condition, more able to withstand the pace of an extended combat tour. These 18-

to 21-year-olds also are often undistracted by such things as wives, children, mortgages and careers.

But others maintain that with age comes maturity and greater calm. And almost half the Guard members and Reservists have plenty of experience under fire, themselves active duty veterans.

In New York, which already sent 2,500 Guard and Reserve soldiers to Iraq and Afghanistan and has hundreds more mobilized, Assemblyman Ivan Lafayette has

lobbed the military to keep them at home where they can protect land and sea borders from terrorists.

"Don't put people there who can't roll, can't lie, can't jump as well as people 18, 20, 19 years old," said Lafayette, who served in the Army and National Guard. "That's the perfect soldier: well-trained, that age, without something at the back of your mind — what's happening to your job, what's happening to your wife, what's happening to your kids."

The 73-year-old Queens Democrat suggests using active infantrymen from Korea, Germany and elsewhere to fill combat assignments, with Guard members and Reserves filling the gaps. Sending soldiers in their 50s to Iraq is unacceptable, he said.

National Guard and Reserve troops will comprise 42 percent or 43 percent of the force in Iraq later this year, defense officials have told Congress. That compares with a 39 percent share currently and 25 percent last year.

With the shifting deployments comes a change in who are among the some 900 American troops dead and the 5,000 wounded in action since last year's invasion.

In June, half the U.S. military deaths — 21 of 42 — were members of the National Guard or Reserve. In May, the breakdown was 22 out of 80 deaths, and in April it was 17 of 136.

At 59, Staff Sgt. William D. Chaney of the Illinois Army National Guard became the oldest Iraq casualty. The Pentagon said he died



New York State Army National Guard Sgt. Andrew Ciepiela, 31, of Buffalo, N.Y., finishes a salute as he drives a truck from New York's 42nd Infantry Guard unit in Troy, N.Y., as his unit heads for Fort Drum for training in May of this year. Ciepiela served in the first Gulf War when he was 18. The average age in the Army National Guard is 32.

in May from surgical complications from a non-combat condition he developed in the war zone.

The average age in the Army National Guard is 32, and 46 percent have active duty experience, according to the National Guard Bureau.

Command Sgt. Maj. Dick Fearnside said the age dropped from 41 over the past seven years as Guard units got busier and older soldiers finished their commitments.

"I think in some areas, maturity and experience can make up for youth and energy," said the

49-year-old Fearnside, top enlisted man for the National Guard's 42nd Infantry Division that will send 4,300 troops to Iraq later this year. He recently returned from an advance visit.

Fearnside, however, said age is an issue with stamina, especially in nonstop operations during a year's assignment to Iraq. "The longer [it] goes, I think it gets harder and harder for the older soldiers," he said. Soldiers can overcome some of the challenges by taking care of themselves and staying fit, he added.

## Messages of Support

★ Hello, I would like to thank you on behalf of my entire family for what you are doing and your sacrifices. Because of brave men and women like you my children have a chance to grow up in a better/safer world. God bless all of you!! I Siko

★ Hello My Warrior Hero Husband! Just wanted to let you know you have a huge fan club back home praying for you & your buddies out there in the desert. Stay Safe, Stay Strong-God Bless & I LOVE YOU!! Your Faithful & Devoted Wife, Kimberly



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## Myers discusses bases in Bulgaria

The Associated Press

SOFIA, Bulgaria — Talks are continuing on the possible creation of U.S. military bases in Bulgaria, but a final decision remains a long way off, a top U.S. military commander said Friday.

Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, said he had "extensive discussions" with Bulgarian officials on the possibility of setting up U.S. military bases in the Balkan country, a strong American ally in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"These consultations are ongoing ... but the decision for such bases is a long way off," Myers told reporters at the end of his two-day visit in Sofia.

Bulgaria, which joined NATO last April along with six other ex-communist nations, repeatedly has declared its readiness to host permanent U.S. military bases, and U.S. officials have suggested they may move troops from bases in Germany to new locations in Eastern Europe. U.S. military officials have also toured Bulgarian bases.

Washington is interested in small, flexible bases, as opposed to the larger ones set up in Western Europe during the Cold War.

Myers praised "the courage and determination Bulgaria demonstrated by taking the side of the United States and the international anti-terror coalition."

He praised Bulgaria's "steadfast contribution" to the military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, saying that "as a new member of the NATO alliance, Bulgaria is staying as a model of stability."

"We deeply appreciate the courage and determination that Bulgaria has shown ... to confront the threat of terrorism," Myers said, apparently referring to the Bulgarian government's refusal to waver in its military commitment in Iraq despite the recent beheading of a Bulgarian truck driver and militants' threats against the country.

Bulgaria has a 480-strong infantry battalion stationed in the Iraqi city of Karbala under Polish command.

troops at the hospital, where they passed out phone cards for international use.

The VFW members were on a tour of several military installations and other military sites, including those in South Korea, Taiwan, Bangkok, Thailand, France and Italy, Banas said.

"Every VFW member was once like these young troops," said Banas, a Vietnam War veteran. "Even though our service was decades ago, it's still hard to forget. It has a tender significance in our hearts."

The VFW, based in Kansas City, Mo., has 2.7 million members, he said.

From staff reports

### Chaplain corps gets \$25K donation

LANDSTUHL, Germany — The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States made a \$25,000 donation Thursday to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center's chaplain corps.

The money will go toward the "unmet needs" of injured and ill troops recovering at the hospital, Edward Banas Sr., commander in chief of the VFW, said Thursday. "Some may have left the war zone without their wallets or with only the clothes on their backs," he said.

Banas and several other VFW members visited

## MILITARY UPDATE

Tom Philpott

# USFSPA challenged by servicemembers

**L**awyers for divorced servicemembers and retirees have filed a constitutional challenge to the Uniformed Services Former Spouses Protection Act, charging widespread violations of due process and equal protection rights in the way the law is written and enforced.

What might be described as the legal muscle behind the lawsuit became apparent Tuesday with the filing of a 50-page brief opposing the government's own lengthy motion to dismiss the case.

The plaintiffs in *Adkins et al. v. Rumsfeld* are 58 divorced servicemembers and retirees, and a limited-liability corporation, USLSG, which is raising money for legal fees.

Their target is the USFSPA, a 1982 law that allows state courts to divide military retirement in divorce settlements.

The lawsuit is before the U.S. District Court for Eastern District of Virginia, which has scheduled a Sept. 13 hearing.

The lawsuit does not seek monetary damages nor ask the court to "retroactively void, or nullify" divorce agreements or property

settlements entered into by plaintiffs or other veterans.

But it asks the court to declare various provisions of USFSPA unconstitutional and to order changes that would eliminate errors and ambiguities, improve procedural safeguards and put an end to "widely divergent interpretations" of the law by state courts.

The government's motion to dismiss, filed by U.S. Attorney Paul J. McNulty on Aug. 9, claims that no argument on behalf of plaintiffs regarding violation of constitutional guarantees has merit.

But, it adds, the court need not consider constitutional challenges. It simply should dismiss the case for lack of subject-matter jurisdiction, given Supreme Court rulings in 1973 and 1983 that bar federal courts from nullifying state judgments on issues that could have been raised at state court level.

This so-called Rooker-Feldman doctrine, the government says, has been used by other federal courts to dismiss other constitutional challenges to the USFSPA.

To comment, write Military Update, P.O. Box 231111, Centerville, VA 20123-1111, e-mail [militaryupdate@aol.com](mailto:militaryupdate@aol.com) or visit [www.militaryupdate.com](http://www.militaryupdate.com)

## U.S. sailors visit Vietnam



U.S. sailors take a tour in cyclos (three-wheeled taxis) in Danang, Vietnam, on Wednesday. The USS Curtis Wilbur, a guided missile destroyer from the Seventh Fleet, based at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, is only the second American vessel to make a port call in Vietnam since the end of the war.

# AAFES adjusting gas prices

Costs to drop in Germany, but rise in other Europe locations

Stars and Stripes

MAINZ-KASTEL, Germany — The monthly price for unleaded gas in Germany for U.S. troops and Defense Department civilians will drop next month by about 6 cents a gallon, the Army and Air Force Exchange Service announced Friday.

The August price schedule, however, is a mixed bag for motorists, contingent on location and the type of fuel purchased.

Motorists who grab for the diesel pump, whether in the United Kingdom or Germany, can expect to pay a few more cents a gallon. The same applies to personnel buying diesel or premium unleaded fuel in the Netherlands, though their increase is steeper: about 10 cents per gallon.

The latest price adjustment takes effect Sunday, the first day of August. Prices are for AAFES customers assigned to Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

AAFES' European fuel prices are based on the Department of Energy's averages from the previous four- or five-week period, the

exchange said in a news release. The price adjustments are in accordance with AAFES pricing policies, the release added.

In June, the statewide average price for a gallon of gas, regardless of grade, was \$192.6. That price fell to \$185.9 by the middle of July, according to the Energy Department Web site.

In Germany, the gallon price for normal unleaded fuel will decrease from \$2.136 to \$2.078, AAFES announced. The price for super unleaded fuel will drop as well, from \$2.235 to \$2.176. The highest grade of unleaded is due to slip, too, from \$2.329 to \$2.271.

Meanwhile, the price for diesel fuel is headed in the opposite direction, rising from \$1.878 per gallon to \$1.905, the release said.

For customers in the Netherlands, the price for super unleaded fuel will decrease from \$2.235 to \$2.187 per gallon.

However, the price for super-plus unleaded will rise from \$2.329 to \$2.431 per gallon, an increase of more than 10 cents.

Like their compatriots in Germany, AAFES customers in the

Netherlands will pay more for diesel, with the gallon rate rising from \$1.929 to \$2.038.

AAFES noted in its new release that the bulk and coupon prices in the Netherlands are different from those in Germany. This is due to a higher cost price in the Netherlands, the release explained, and to the AAFES policy that it will not sell below dispensed cost. The price on the pump and the price for coupon books sold in the Netherlands will reflect this policy.

In the United Kingdom, the price for super-unleaded fuel will decrease from \$2.169 per gallon to \$2.110. Diesel, on the other hand, is scheduled to rise from \$1.812 to \$1.839.

Prices in Turkey and the Azores change only annually. Navy bases such as those in Spain and Italy adjust prices independently of the AAFES system.

The price of gas on base is still considerably cheaper than at stations outside the gates. The price for normal unleaded fuel at stations outside U.S. bases in Germany is about 1.45 euro (\$1.38) per liter, or about \$6.20 a gallon.

# Airmen honored for attempt to save mom, 3 children

Stars and Stripes

RAF MILDENHALL, England — Two airmen at RAF Mildenhall have been honored by the chief police constable of Suffolk County for their attempt to rescue four people involved in a car crash last September, according to a story in the Bury Free Press on Friday.

Senior Airman Ivan Ruiz and Senior Airman Jared Pietras, members of the 321st Special Tactics Squadron of the 352nd Special Operations Group, were awarded community service certificates by Alastair McWhirter.

Ruiz and Pietras tried to save an Air Force wife, Cortina Hamilton, and her three young children after a crash on the A1101 a few miles from the base on Sept. 26, 2003.

Ruiz was driving a car that struck Hamilton's, sending it into a water-filled ditch. Ruiz's car struck an electricity pylon

and burst into flames. After helping his girlfriend escape the burning car, he waded into deep water to try to help the family.

Pietras, alerted to the crash by a cell phone call from Ruiz's girlfriend, drove to the scene to help. He joined Ruiz in the water to help with resuscitation attempts on the Hamilton family members.

Their efforts were unsuccessful. Hamilton and her three children died.

Col. John Poucher, deputy commander of the 352nd SOG, told the weekly newspaper, "with complete disregard to themselves, these young airmen sought to help out where they could. I am proud to have such fine and courageous individuals in our Air Force."

Ruiz, who has left the squadron, was quoted as saying, "I appreciate the award, but I was just doing what I could to help."

Pietras is currently deployed to an undisclosed location.

# Nations to sign Greenland radar accord

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The United States and Denmark will sign an accord that will pave the way to upgrade radar in northern Greenland that supports the U.S. missile defense program, the State Department said Thursday.

The signing will take place Aug. 6 in Greenland, the world's largest island, five hours from Denmark by plane. It is a semi-autonomous Danish territory with no say in defense and foreign policy issues. Secretary of State Colin Powell will join Danish Foreign Minister Per Stig Møller and Josef Motzfeldt, deputy premier of Greenland, at the ceremony.

"They will also sign declarations that establish a new framework for fostering broader economic and technical and environmental cooperation between

the United States and Greenland," State Department deputy spokesman Adam Erlich said. He declined to answer when asked if the Danes had extracted concessions from the United States on revision of the 1951 Defense of Greenland Agreement in order to overcome their concerns about missile defense and use of the base.

In May the Danish parliament approved allowing the United States to upgrade the early warning radar facility at Thule Air Base, 745 miles south of the North Pole.

The U.S. missile defense plan calls for 10 ground-based interceptor missiles in Alaska and California. The U.S. defense capability would also include 20 interceptor missiles on three Aegis cruisers with additional Patriot missiles and a series of upgraded sensors and radars.



## IN THE WORLD

# Parliament fights passenger data treaty

The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium — The European Parliament has asked the European Union's highest court to annul a treaty between the EU and the United States for sharing information about trans-Atlantic airline passengers, the court said Friday.

The European Commission, the EU's executive body, and EU governments signed an agreement with the United States in May on sharing such information despite strenuous privacy objections

## EU's court asked to annul agreement made with U.S.

from parliament.

Since March 2003, the EU and the United States have been exchanging data under an informal arrangement. But airlines said they needed a legal foundation.

The agreement compels European airlines to turn over 34 pieces of information about each passenger, including name, address and credit card details, within 15 minutes of departure for the United States.

Washington argued that the information was vital to combat terrorism and warned that airlines would face fines and a loss of landing rights if they did not comply.

The parliament decided to refer the issue to the European Court of Justice because the assembly lacks the power to block the agreement. In papers filed Tuesday, the European Parliament asked the court to use a fast-track procedure, which

means a verdict is likely within six months.

Normally, it takes the court between eighteen months and two years.

During the negotiations, the EU won some concessions from the Americans. These included shortening the time the data is stored, deleting sensitive information such as meal preference and U.S. assurances that the information would be shared with other

countries on a restricted basis only.

Pat Cox, the parliament's outgoing president, said the decision to launch legal action was based on concern over the infringement of fundamental civil liberties.

"While naturally accepting that the U.S. administration is perfectly free to exercise its sovereign right to protect its own homeland, both the EU and the U.S. must guard against a new form of creeping extra-territoriality," he said.

## Bombers target U.S., Israel embassies

BY BURT HERMAN

The Associated Press

TASHKENT, Uzbekistan — Suicide bombers staged nearly simultaneous attacks outside the U.S. and Israeli embassies as well as the top prosecutor's office Friday, killing at least two Uzbek guards and wounding seven others in Uzbekistan, a key U.S. ally in the war on terror.

The two local guards were killed at the Israeli Embassy. Foreign Ministry spokesman Ilkhom Zakirov said. Five others were injured in the blast at the prosecutor general's office, and two more were hurt at the U.S. Embassy, he said. No foreigners were hurt.

The attacks occurred as 15 suspects with alleged links to

al-Qaida were being tried for a wave of violence earlier this year that left at least 47 people dead. Those attacks included Central Asia's first-ever suicide bombings.

Uzbekistan, a former Soviet republic bordering Afghanistan, has allowed hundreds of U.S. troops to use a southern air base that was instrumental in ousting the Taliban regime. Uzbek President Islam Karimov runs a strict regime that has sought to wipe out Islamic extremism and allows no opposition to his rule, which dates to Soviet times.

Outside the heavily fortified American compound, a body believed to be that of a suicide bomber lay across the street from the entrance. The tall security wall

surrounding the compound appeared to be scarred with black burn marks, and the area was blocked off by heavily armed police and soldiers.

Nargiza Usmanova, who operates a flower kiosk down the street, said the "building jumped" when the explosion went off. She said she had seen several people lying in the street after the blast, and they appeared to have survived the blast because they were still moving.

Debris littered the street outside the Israeli Embassy, also under heavy guard. A window appeared to have been broken, but the tall wall protecting the building didn't appear to suffer any serious damage. Israeli Ambassador Tzvi Cohen told Israel Radio that all Israeli personnel were safe inside.



Residents try to fight a forest fire in Zambujal, Loule, southern Portugal, on Tuesday. Firefighters are battling eight large fires in 10 different parts of the country.

## Portugal fires spread; Spain blaze controlled

The Associated Press

LISBON, Portugal — Forest fires raged across Portugal Friday, scorching the popular tourist region in the south.

The southern Algarve region, popular with vacationers, is one

of the worst hit areas, and reports said one-third of the area's woodland had burned.

Firefighters said that in one area, the blaze was spreading toward the beach resort town of Tavira on the southern coast.

Several hundred people were evacuated from the Algarve mountain village of Sao Bras de Alportel, 18 miles north of the coastal city of Faro.

About 650 firefighters with helicopters and water-dumping planes battled to control the flames.

Portuguese authorities have so far refused to say how much land has been burned in the latest batch of fires this week, but firefighters and news reports place the figure in the tens of

thousands of acres.

On Thursday, the Algarve fire was said to have a front stretching 50 miles and getting longer. Fifteen fires in all were reported throughout the country Friday.

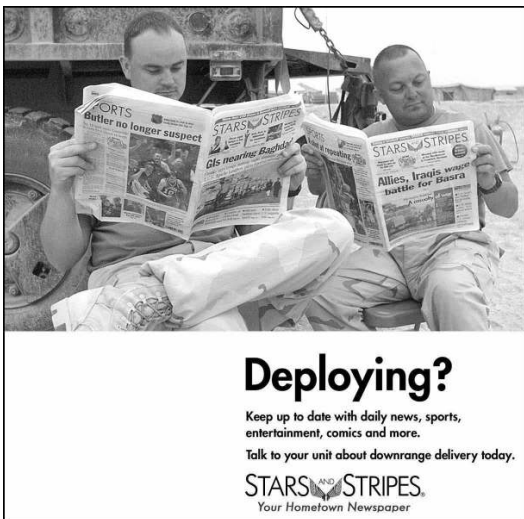
Last year, fires in Portugal destroyed 1 million acres, killing 18 people and damaging 2,500 buildings.

The government said that more than 81,500 acres of forest and agricultural land were lost to fires between January and the latest round of blazes, which started July 25.

In neighboring Spain, firefighters said they had brought under control a massive blaze that burned 65,000 acres this week in the southern province of Huelva, which borders Portugal's Algarve.

Two people died in that fire on Tuesday.

Police said they suspected the fire may have been caused intentionally and there could be arrests soon.



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# Souda Bay base joins Olympic intelligence net

BY MIRON VAROUHAKIS

The Associated Press

SOUDA BAY, Greece — Spy planes from a small U.S. Navy base have joined a vast intelligence network feeding Greek and NATO authorities information about any potential threats to next month's Olympics, base officials told The Associated Press.

According to base officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, an increased number of U.S. Air Force RC-135 and U.S. Navy EP-3 reconnaissance planes have been using the Souda Bay base on the island of Crete for missions over North Africa and the Middle East.

The officials would not give additional details on the flights or intelligence gathered.

Greek and overseas security officials have indicated there is no specific threat against the Aug. 13-29 Games. But preparations to protect the games are in full swing.

In Athens on Thursday, police and soldiers with sniffer dogs and hand-held scanners fanned out across the seaside Helliniko Sports Complex to seal off the Olympic venue for security.

The reconnaissance planes taking off from

Souda Bay are expected to work alongside the AWACS aircraft from NATO and other land and air patrol forces for the games. The Souda Bay base on the southern island of Crete serves as an intelligence hub for operations in the Middle East, Balkans and the Mediterranean Sea.

The Souda Bay base — a harbor and airfield — has already beefed up its security ahead of the Olympics. It is one of four U.S. naval bases in Europe and 10 worldwide that have received training and equipment for emergency response teams to deal with biochemical or nuclear-related attacks.

"The base is on Threat Condition Bravo," said Paul Farley, a base spokesman.

Crete is also the location of a major pre-Olympic training camp where the entire U.S. athletics team expects to arrive next week.

The U.S. athletics team has about 200 members in addition to trainers and others.

Greek police sources told the AP earlier this month that the athletes will be escorted on Crete by armed U.S. agents.

The United States has provided radiation and bomb scanning equipment to Olympic security forces.

## Greek premier will direct defense during Olympics

THESS, Greece — Any decision to use Patriot missiles to shoot down planes or other possible airborne threats during the Olympics rests with Greece's premier and will be made within two minutes of detecting a problem, a commander of one of the air defense batteries said Friday.

The U.S.-made Patriot missiles, designed to intercept incoming rockets and aircraft, are part of a record \$1.5 billion security network for the Aug. 13-29 Games.

During a review of the Tatoi Air Base, 16 miles north of Athens and near the Olympic Village, Air Force Maj. Dimitris Mandilis said up to 120 Patriots are deployed at five sites around Greece: three in the Athens area, one near the northern city of Thessaloniki and another on the Aegean island of Syros.

If Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis "gives the order, then within 15 seconds the missiles will be in the air," Mandilis said.

Greek officials have refused to discuss specific aspects of the air defense strategy, but pre-Olympic drills have included preparations for Sept. 11-style attacks.

Beginning next week, only authorized aircraft will be allowed within 27 miles of Athens, Mandilis said. A complete no-fly order will cover Olympic venues and other sites linked to the games, he said.

The orders will remain in effect until Oct. 5 following the end of the Paralympics. Other air defense systems being used for Olympic security include the French Crotale and Russian Tor systems, but the Patriots are considered the first option against any possible threat.

From The Associated Press

# Belgium: At least 15 dead, 100 hurt in gas explosion

BY LAURENCE FROST

The Associated Press

ATH, Belgium — A spectacular explosion of a gas line pierced by construction workers killed up to 15 people and injured more than 100 Friday in an earth-shattering blast that crushed buildings, scorched cars and sent giant flames soaring into the sky.

The explosion occurred about

8:30 a.m. in an industrial area of the nearby village of Ghislenghien about 20 miles southeast of Brussels.

Construction workers alerted firefighters that they had damaged the underground gas line, acting provincial Gov. Guy Petit said. At least five of the dead and many of the injured were believed to have been police and firefighters.

The thunderous blast sent a towering wall of orange flame soaring into the sky in a series of mushrooming balls of fire. The blast crushed a swath of large buildings in the industrial park and hurled bodies more than 100 yards.

The devastation resembled a war zone, with everything within a 400-yard radius of the blast site either melted or incinerated.

"There were bodies in parking

lots, in fields, there were burned-out cars," Brussels fire department spokesman Francis Boileau said. "We have not seen devastation on such a scale for 40 years."

Fire and heat scorched cars in a nearby parking lot and blackened the surrounding agricultural fields. Helmeted firefighters directed water hoses from cranes above the flames.

A gray haze hung over a wide portion of the rural area. About 50 ambulances shuttled the injured to hospitals. Emergency crews were rushed to the area from throughout Belgium and nearby countries.

A local fire official, Jean-Claude Mondo, said cars were incinerated more than 100 yards away. The head of the local volunteer fire department, Eddy Petiaux, was among the dead, he said.

Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt, who rushed back from a holiday in Italy, said it was the worst

such accident in Belgium since 1967, when a tanker truck carrying liquid gas exploded, killing 22 people.

"The accident constitutes for our country a national catastrophe, and the toll is a heavy one," Verhofstadt told reporters in Ath, 6 miles from the blast site. He ordered flags to be flown at half-staff and declared a national day of mourning when the victims are buried.

King Albert II was due to return from holiday in Spain and would meet with families of the victims on Saturday.

Verhofstadt said 15 people were confirmed dead, but three were unaccounted for. He said 120 people were hospitalized, including 12 sent to burn centers in France.

Officials said the death toll could rise because some of the injured were in very critical condition.

Associated Press correspondent Constant Brand contributed to this report from Brussels.



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## IN THE STATES

## Senators start 9/11 report hearings

BY KATHERINE PFLEGER  
SHRADER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Leaders of the Sept. 11 commission urged senators Friday to embrace their politically sensitive proposals for massive changes to the nation's intelligence structure, warning that bureaucratic wrangling leaves America dangerously vulnerable to another terrorist attack.

The unusual hearing — coming during summer recess on Capitol Hill — focused on two of the commission's most complex proposals: the creation of a new national counterterrorism center and a new national intelligence director to oversee the 15-agency intelligence community.

"We have concluded the intelligence community is not going to get its job done unless somebody really is in charge," said Lee Hamilton, the Democratic vice chairman on the commission. "That is just not the case now, and we have paid the price."

Thomas Kean, the commission's Republican chairman, described a litany of failures by the intelligence community in the months preceding the 2001 terror attacks against New York and Washington.

He attributed failures to a pro-



Thomas Kean, left, chairman of the Sept. 11 commission, appears before the Senate Government Affairs Committee on Capitol Hill on Friday with vice chairman Lee Hamilton as the committee opened hearings on the commission's final report.

found lack of coordination across intelligence agencies.

"No one was the quarterback, no one was calling the plays," Kean said. He said that in the proposed reorganization, "each agency needs to give up some of their existing turf and some of their authority."

Kean said an assertion by recently departed CIA Director George Tenet that it will take five years to reform intelligence was "unacceptable."

However, Kean and Hamilton praised reforms already undertaken by FBI Director Robert Mueller, who has sought to trans-

form the bureau's priority from criminal investigations to counterterrorism.

But Kean worried that might happen if Mueller and his top deputies leave, saying he was fearful the bureau would revert to its historical emphasis on chasing white-collar criminals, mobsters and bank robbers.

"A lot of the FBI would like to go back, if you would, to breaking down doors again," Kean said.

Senators pledged to quickly but thoughtfully consider the commission's proposals.

"We must react with speed but not in haste," said Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, the chairwoman of the Governmental Affairs Committee. She also urged lawmakers to "be bold but not reckless" in considering changes that will lead to what she described as a "fundamental overhaul of our intelligence structure and a sea change in our thinking."

The committee's ranking Democrat, Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut, promised that, "We're going to get this job done and get it done with unprecedented thoughtfulness and speed."

Collins said she supports the idea of an intelligence director, though has questions about how the office would be set up.

## States warned of threats

WASHINGTON — The FBI warned police in New Mexico and California that it received information about possible terrorist activity in their states. However, the warning wasn't specific about particular targets or a method of attack, a federal law enforcement official said Thursday.

The FBI decided to pass along the threat information but warned that it was considered unsubstantiated and uncorroborated, said the official, who spoke only on condition of anonymity.

Peter Olson, a spokesman for the New Mexico Department of Public Safety, said state officials have been told only that there were reports of possible al-Qaida elements in New Mexico.

"There are no specific dates, times, locations or any other specific information that we have at this time," he said.

He also said the state has no information on why the warning is being issued now.

Law enforcement agencies were being asked "to be extremely vigilant ... report anything that seems to be peculiar," Olson said.

However, no one was put on heightened alert and the state did not activate its Emergency Operations Center, he said.

"This is our normal procedure. If we receive specific information, then we act on that," Olson said. "But we have nothing at this point."

From wire reports

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# Sources: Ridge may resign cabinet post

BY TED BRIDIS  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge is considering stepping down after the November election, telling colleagues he is worn out from the massive reorganization of government and needs to earn money in the private sector to put his teenage children through college, officials said.

Ridge will not make a final decision until he talks to President George W. Bush later this year and is focused on thwarting the terror attacks that officials fear al-Qaida will attempt before November, Assistant Homeland Security Secretary Susan Neely said.

"Secretary Ridge is focused entirely on the job the president has asked him to do," Neely said Wednesday.

Several senior Homeland Security officials told The Associated Press that Ridge has indicated in recent weeks he probably will resign after the election, even if Bush wins. They spoke only on condition of anonymity, citing the delicate nature of describing private conversations with their boss.

Ridge, 58, has explained to colleagues that he needs to earn money to comfortably put his two children, Tommy Jr. and Lesley, through college, officials said. Both are now teenagers. Ridge earns \$175,700 a year as a Cabinet secretary.

The former Pennsylvania governor, who agreed to serve as the department's inaugural secretary, also has expressed to colleagues frustration over the continuing challenges of reorganizing the 22 disparate agencies that



Ridge

formed the Homeland Security Department, officials said.

One senior official said Ridge has cautioned that his plans, while leaning toward resignation, could be changed by coming events, such as another terror attack or a discussion with the president.

On a plane flight from Boston this month after viewing security preparations for the Democratic National Convention, Ridge addressed his future carefully. "The job is going great — personally," he said. "When the president is re-elected, he'll have conversations to determine what he wants and what his Cabinet members want."

Ridge has personally faced criticism over frequent but vague public warnings about possible terrorist activity.

Government officials at Ridge's level can easily earn millions of dollars each year in the private sector.

## 3 dead in Texas flooding

BY LISA FALKENBERG  
The Associated Press

DALLAS — Authorities searched Friday for a motorist whose vehicle was found in a flooded creek downstream from a collapsed bridge after more than a foot of rain fell in the Dallas area.

The body of another motorist was found in the creek, and two others were also known dead from the severe storms that moved through late Wednesday and early Thursday.

In the Dallas suburb of Lancaster, city officials were hoping for state and federal help after flooding damaged as many as 200 homes.

Damage from the falling rain — such as leaking roofs — was estimated to be at least \$17 million, said Jerry Johns, president of the Southwestern Insurance Information Service.

State transportation officials were investigating why concrete columns collapsed in the bridge in the small Ellis County town of Ovilla.

Two vehicles were found downstream from the bridge late Thursday, and the



Dallas police officer J.W. Jacobs checks cars that were abandoned during a flash flood that hit the southern part of Dallas on Thursday. An estimated foot of rain fell.

body of a 52-year-old man who had apparently been driving to work before sunrise was found under piles of debris in Red Oak Creek, county Sheriff's Chief Deputy Charles Sullins said. The search for the second motorist continued.

In Dallas, a motorist was killed Wednesday after his pickup truck knocked over a utility pole.

### Alaska volcano stirring

ANCHORAGE — Noting a swarm of tiny earthquakes beneath volcanic Mount Spurr, scientists have warned that the volcano 80 miles west of Anchorage could erupt in the next few weeks.

Eruptions most often follow a pattern of quakes, said geophysicist John Power of the U.S. Geological Survey, one of three federal and state partners in the Anchorage-based Alaska Volcano Observatory.

Power added, however, that the earthquakes will most likely end without an eruption.

Mount Spurr was last significantly active in 1992. In an August explosion that year, it spread a thin layer of ash over Anchorage.

The mountain's recent activity began slowly in February and intensified July 4, the observatory said this week. An average of 20 small quakes are now occurring daily, a rate higher than at any time since 1992.

From The Associated Press

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# 'Believe in America'

## Kerry promises that 'America can do better'

BY DARLENE SUPERVILLE  
The Associated Press

BOSTON — Challenging President George W. Bush by declaring that "strength is more than tough words," Democratic presidential nominee Sen. John Kerry plunged into the general election campaign aimed at convincing millions of undecided voters that his time in Vietnam makes him the right commander in a time of war.

Leaving the warm embrace of his most fervent supporters — the thousands who flocked to the Democratic Party's nominating convention — Kerry is in stronger shape than any presidential challenger in a quarter-century.

After accepting his party's nomination in a boisterous Thursday night convention finale, Kerry and his running mate, North Carolina Sen. John Edwards, rolled out of Boston with actor Ben Affleck to start a two-week, 3,500-mile campaign on buses emblazoned

with the words, "Believe in America." First stops will be in Scranton and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, a state Bush lost by 5 percentage points in 2000.

"Americans are playing by the rules while a whole group of people are writing the rules for themselves and leaving the rest of America out. We're going to change that around. Help is on the way for the average person in this country," Kerry said, repeating a refrain from his acceptance speech.

With slightly more than three months until the election, Kerry is virtually tied with Bush and likely to enjoy a bounce in the polls from this week's convention.

Kerry hit hard at the president's handling of the Iraq war and the war on terror in his acceptance speech Thursday night.

"Saying these weapons of mass destruction in Iraq doesn't make it so. Saying we can fight a war on the cheap doesn't make it so," Kerry told an overflowing FleetCenter crowd and a television audience of millions.

"And proclaiming mission accomplished certainly doesn't make it so," he said to roars of approval.

The Democrats' convention, a four-day show of unity behind Kerry, was designed to tell millions of undecided voters in key states about his Vietnam War service and persuade them that he is prepared to lead and defend the country in an age of terrorism.



Democratic presidential nominee Sen. John Kerry waves to supporters in Boston on Friday before kicking off a "Believe in America" tour.

Thirteen men who served with Kerry on swiftboats three decades ago in the Mekong Delta shared his spotlight, and a 9½-minute biographical film featured Kerry's own war footage.

Kerry, referring to critics' claims that the president's decision to invade Iraq was based on faulty evidence, promised immediate reforms of the U.S. intelligence system so "policy is guided by facts, and facts are never distorted by politics."

And when he cited U.S. job losses, rising health care costs, pollution and homelessness under Bush, Kerry repeated the phrase: "America can do better. And help is on the way."

# Acceptance speech skips Vietnam protester days

BY CALVIN WOODWARD  
The Associated Press

BOSTON — Anyone tuning in to John F. Kerry for the first time during his acceptance speech Thursday at the Democratic National Convention would come away soaked in Kerry's past as a decorated Vietnam veteran but finding only hints about his days as a war protester.

Kerry spoke frequently of his younger days fighting for his country and ignored Vietnam when praising the American tradition of going to war only "because we have to."

Kerry says he is still proud of his anti-war activism when he came back.

A video introduction shown at the convention before the broadcast networks began carrying his speech included a clip of the young Kerry, in military garb, testifying to Congress against the war in 1971.

Kerry emphasized throughout his speech his credentials as a Vietnam veteran. "I defended this country as a young man," he said. "We fought for this nation because we loved it, and we came back with the deep belief that every day is extra."

There was no telling from his remarks that Kerry became a leading anti-war protester after his return from Vietnam.

Testifying to Congress on behalf of Vietnam Veterans Against the War, he detailed atrocities he said were committed by U.S. troops in Vietnam, including rapes, beatings and random killings of civilians, only to acknowledge later he had not witnessed these acts.

He tossed away the ribbons he had received with his war medals, threw away the medals of other veterans who weren't able to attend a protest and told the 1971 Senate hearing: "The country doesn't know it yet, but it has created a monster, a monster in the form of millions of men who have been taught to deal and to die in violence, and who are given the chance to die for the biggest nothing in history."

Despite his judgment then that Vietnam was about "nothing" — and despite other wars and invasions of arguable necessity — Kerry suggested Iraq was a departure from a long-held practice of last-resort wars.

"As president, I will bring back this nation's time-honored tradition: The United States of America never goes to war because we want to, we only go to war because we have to."

# Bush touts 'results' in response to Kerry

BY PETE YOST  
The Associated Press

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. — President Bush launched his counterattack Friday against John Kerry, saying his Democratic rival spent 18 years in the U.S. Senate with "no signature achievements."

"My opponent has got good intentions, but intentions do not always translate to results," Bush told thousands of supporters who repeatedly interrupted his remarks with standing ovations.

Appearing at a baseball stadium at Southwest Missouri State University, Bush said that during eight years on the Senate Intelligence Committee,

Kerry "did not do a thing to cut the intelligence budget but had a record of reforming America's intelligence-gathering capability." Problems with the intelligence agencies have been blamed for many of the failures surrounding the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

Bush also said Kerry has no significant record for reforming education or health care.

The president said that Kerry and running mate John Edwards consistently oppose reforms that limit the power of Washington and leave more power in the hands of the people.

"The weak members of the other party gathered in Boston," Bush said. "We heard a lot of clever speeches and some big promises. After 19 years in the United States Senate, my opponent has had thousands of votes but very few signature achievements."

Bush also mounted a defense of his record, saying that Kerry would erase gains made in the past four years in the economy and U.S. security matters.

"We're turning the corner and we are not turning back" in the war on terrorism and on issues from improving education and health care to maintaining tax cuts, said Bush, declaring: "Results matter."

"They're going to raise taxes, we're not," Bush said of Kerry.

He said the Bush administration has "a clear vision on how to win the war on terror and bring peace to the world."

Bush also contrasted the long-time government service of Dick Cheney to Edwards, a first-term senator. "I appreciate my running mate's better vision of the world than the prettiest man in the race, but he's got sound judgment."

Offering broad outlines of his reelection agenda, Bush promised better times and fresh ideas, declaring:

"I think the government of Massachusetts is a better government. I think," said Bush spokesman Scott McClellan. Although he called Kerry's speech "nicely crafted," he criticized Kerry's Senate record and said he is "rushing as fast and as far as we can from that record."

# Election promises

The Associated Press

BOSTON — A list of promises and pledges in John Kerry's Thursday night speech:

- Recruit allies to help rebuild Iraq.
- Add 40,000 active duty troops, including a doubling of special forces to fight terrorism.
- Immediately implement the recommendations of the Sept. 11 commission to improve America's security.
- Will not privatize Social Security or cut benefits.
- Create incentives to revitalize manufacturing and invest in job-creating technology and innovation.
- Eliminate tax incentives that encourage companies to ship jobs overseas and reward companies that keep and create jobs in the United States.
- Enforce protections for American workers in trade agreements.
- Cut the deficit in half in four years.
- Cut middle-class taxes and reduce the tax burden on small businesses.
- Repeal Bush's tax cuts for people making more than \$200,000 a year.
- Institute an education plan that sets high standards, provides for smaller class sizes and demands accountability from parents, teachers, and schools.
- Give a tax credit for college tuition.
- Save families up to \$1,000 on health care premiums by cracking down on waste and abuse in the system; ensure patients can choose their own doctors; allow Medicare to negotiate lower drug prices for seniors; and allow Americans to buy less expensive prescription drugs from other countries.
- Invest in vehicles that run on alternative fuels and other energy-saving technology.

# Democrats sideline liberal topics at convention

BY RON FOURNIER  
The Associated Press

BOSTON — Focusing on John Kerry as a terrorism-fighting, medal-winning patriot, nobody at the Democratic National Convention, it seems, is talking about gay rights and other hot-button issues.

Abortion rights, gay rights, affirmative action, gun control — and more traditional liberal convention themes were shunned

to the margins as the Kerry team relentlessly focused its convention on the candidate's Vietnam War record.

"The special interests that favor Democrats understand that they will be vastly better off under a Kerry administration than they have been under Bush," said Matt Bennett, spokesman for Americans for Gun Safety, which supports gun control.

"They also understand the way to get Kerry elected is to focus on

the issue that is most important to voters — that is security both at home and abroad," Bennett said.

Bush spokesman Steve Schmidt said Democrats are trying to keep Kerry's liberal ways from the general public. "We've said from the first hour of the convention that this will be an extreme makeover of John Kerry's 20-year record in the U.S. Senate," he said.

Cheryl Jacques, president of the Human Rights Campaign,

spoke prior to the prime-time Wednesday night schedule to defend "marriage equality," or the right of gays to marry. Her spokesman, Mark Shields, said it makes sense to focus the convention on security, not gay rights and other liberal topics. "If you look at every national poll, gay rights is not something people want politicians spending their time on jobs, the economy and the war in Iraq," he said.

# Kerry's words for servicemembers

John Kerry addressed delegates to close the 2004 Democratic National Convention. Here are excerpts from his speech, focusing on his plans for the military:

I'm John Kerry, and I'm reporting for duty.

My fellow Americans, we're here tonight united in one purpose: to make America stronger at home and respected in the world....

I was born, as some of you saw in the film, in Fitzsimmons Army Hospital in Colorado, when my dad was a pilot in World War II.

And when I was a young man, he was in the State Department, stationed in Berlin when it and the world were divided between democracy and communism.

I have unforgettable memories of being a kid mesmerized by the British, French and American troops, each of them guarding their own part of the city, and Russians standing guard on that stark line separating East from West....

I learned what it meant to be America at our best....

I will be a commander in chief who will never mislead us into war.

My fellow Americans, this is the most important election of our lifetime. The stakes are high. We are a nation at war: a global war on terror against an enemy unlike we've ever known before....

The world tonight is very different from the world of four years ago. But I believe the American people are more equal to the challenge.

Now, I know there that are

those who criticize me for seeing complexities — and I do — because some issues just aren't at that simple. Saying there are weapons of mass destruction in Iraq doesn't make it so. Saying we can fight a war on the cheap doesn't make it so. And proclaiming "Mission accomplished" certainly doesn't make it so....

As president, I will bring back this nation's time-honored tradition: The United States of America never goes to war because we want to; we only go to war because we have to. That is the standard of our nation.

I know what kids go through when they're carrying an M-16 in a dangerous place, and they can't tell friend from foe. I know what they go through when they're out on patrol at night and they don't know what's coming around the next bend. I know what it's like to write letters home telling your family that everything's all right, when you're not sure that that's true.

As president, I will wage this war with the lessons I learned in war. Before you go to battle, you have to be able to look a parent in the eye and truthfully say, "I tried everything possible to avoid sending your son or daughter into harm's way, but we had no choice. We had to protect the American people, fundamental American values against a threat that was real and imminent."

So, lesson No. 1, this is the only justification for going to war.

And on my first day in office, I will send a message to every man and woman in our armed forces: You will never be asked to fight a war without a plan to win the

peace.

I know what we have to do in Iraq. We need a president who has the credibility to bring our allies to our side and share the burden, reduce the cost to American taxpayers, reduce the risk to the American soldiers. That's the right way to get the job done and bring our troops home.

Here is the reality: That won't happen until we have a president who restores America's respect and leadership so we don't have to go it alone in the world....

Let there be no mistake: I will never hesitate to use force when it is required. Any attack will be met with a swift and a certain response.

I will never give any nation or any institution a veto over our national security.

And I will build a stronger military. We will build 40,000 active duty troops, not in Iraq, but to strengthen American forces that are now overstretched, overextended and under pressure.



Sen. John Kerry on Thursday

We will double our Special Forces to conduct terrorist operations, anti-terrorist operations, and we will provide our troops with the newest weapons and technology to save their lives and win the battle. And we will end the backdoor draft of the National Guard and reservists.

To all who serve in our armed forces today, I say: Help is on the way....

We need a strong military and we need to lead strong alliances.

And then, with confidence and determination, we will be able to tell the terrorists:

You will lose, and we will win. The future doesn't belong to fear; it belongs to freedom....

For four years, we've been a lot of talk about values. But values spoken without actions taken are just slogans....

You don't value families if you force them to take up a collection to buy body armor for a son or daughter in the service, if you deny veterans health care, or if you tell middle-class families to pay a tax cut, so that the wealthiest among us can get even more....

It is time to reach for the next dream. It is time to look to the next horizon. For America, the hope is there. The sun is rising. Our best days are still to come.

Thank you. Good night. God bless you, and God bless the United States of America.

# CNN airs tirade over balloon problems

From staff and wire reports

As John Kerry concluded his acceptance speech Friday night, the jubilant convention crowd cheered and the balloons dropped. A few of them. Maybe too few.

"Go balloons," said convention producer Don Mischer, instructing the balloon droppers. His voice rose as it was going out over CNN.

"I don't see anything happening," he said angrily. Unknown to him, CNN was running his name and title across the bottom of the screen.

CNN aired Mischer as he became more frantic.

"There's not enough coming down! All balloons, what the hell! There's nothing falling! What the f--- are you guys doing up there?"

Finally, the balloons came down.

CNN's Arlo Bittner then came on and apologized to viewers.

Mischer's stage instructions were available to all major media covering the convention during the week — for their guidance, not for broadcast.

CNN said it had permission to air the audio.

Stephen Jewett, a DNC official involved in podium operations, said there was no malfunction with the balloon system.

The balloons were timed to come down slowly, he said, making "for a longer ending, which was nice."

# A challenge to Bush

By RONALD BROWNSTEIN  
Los Angeles Times

BOSTON — Sen. John F. Kerry capped a Democratic convention centered on his experiences in Vietnam with an acceptance speech that seemed the polar opposite of a surprise attack on an enemy's strongest point.

In a confident and combative address Thursday night, Kerry signaled his determination to fight the full campaign on terrain that the White House has long assumed would belong to President Bush: strength, integrity, values and the prosecution of the war on terror.

Challenging Bush's claim to better represent mainstream social values, Kerry jibed, "It is time for those who talk about family values to start valuing families...."

Above all, the convention, and Kerry's speech itself, seemed designed to reassure Americans that it was safe to take the unsettling step of replacing the commander in chief at a time of war.

Yet the speech left openings Republicans will seek to exploit in the weeks ahead. It offered no new details on Kerry's plans for stabilizing Iraq. Nor did Kerry clearly say whether he believed the war was a mistake.

Kerry said little about his career in the Senate — thus provid-

ing little new defense for a voting record the Bush campaign has harshly criticized. And by placing greater emphasis on new spending proposals than how he would pay for them.

Without directly saying that he believed the war in Iraq was a mistake, Kerry strongly suggested his own experience in combat would make him more cautious than Bush about sending American troops into such a war again.

Concluding his speech, the party presented a consistent and intelligent critique of Bush's strategy for protecting America after the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

They have accused Bush of alienating the world, and slighting efforts to bolster homeland security, in favor of an excessively ideological reliance on military force, symbolized the decision to invade Iraq.

Kerry promised to win more cooperation from allies and implied that he would be more discriminating than Bush in rejecting "simple" answers and acknowledging the complexity of the choices America faces in the world. But he repeated earlier promises to "never give any nation or any institution a veto over our national security" and to "never hesitate to use force when it is required."

Stars and Stripes

# Messages of Support

JUST A NOTE TO SAY THANK YOU ALL FOR SERVING OUR COUNTRY AND PRESERVING FREEDOM SO FAR FROM HOME. WE ARE THE GREATEST NATION ON EARTH AND THOSE WHO DO NOT BELIEVE IT OR SUPPORT IT SHOULD GET OUT! LET THEM LEARN WHAT NO FREEDOM OR RIGHTS MEANS. I WORK FOR A COMPANY WHOSE BUSINESS IS APPROXIMATELY 95% MILITARY AND SPEAKING FOR THEM OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ARE CONSTANTLY WITH YOU. ONE OF OUR OWN PEOPLE A YOUNG MAN WHO IS A RESERVIST IS THERE FIGHTING. WE ARE PROUD OF EACH AND EVERYONE OF YOU. MAY THE GOOD LORD GUIDE YOU, PROTECT YOU AND BRING YOU HOME KNOWING YOU HAVE SERVED WELL! THANK YOU ALL AGAIN, SINCERELY, L. TRAUB, CINCINNATI, OH

To N. Geisler: Your family, friends, and hometown love you and we're praying for you and the men with you! You make us all proud to be Americans! With Love, Your Sister!

I HAVE A TWIN BROTHER STATIONED ON THE US ANCHORAGE, HE WAS DEPLOYED RECENTLY. I JUST WANT TO TELL HIM THAT I LOVE HIM AND WISHING A WELL RETURN FOR HIM WHEN THIS WAR IS OVER....THIS MESSAGE IS ALSO FOR ALL OF OUR AMERICAN TROOPS, YOUR FAMILIES ARE WATCHING THE NEWS CONSTANTLY, WE LOVE ALL OF YOU, YOUR LOVED ONES, FAMILIES, FRIENDS ALL WISH YOU A VICTORIOUS RETURN HOME TO ALL OF YOU IN THIS WAR!!!!!! WE ARE THINKING OF ALL OF YOU, AS TO MY BROTHER B. FELIPE, YOUR TWIN SISTER WOULD LIKE TO WISH YOU A BELATED BIRTHDAY....I DIDN'T REALIZE YOUR SHIP WAS ALREADY DEPLOYED....COME HOME SOON.....ALL OF YOU!!!!!! OH BERNARD.....YOUR OTHER BROTHERS AND SISTERS MISS YOU TOO!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

just wanted to know that u are thought of often and in my prayers daily. My heart goes out to you for what you are doing for not only our country but what you are doing for the iraqi people. God bless you and yours. Love, Connie in Kansas

# Ky. governor gets last laugh

BY BRUCE SCHREINER  
The Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Gov. Ernie Fletcher said Wednesday that swapping gags with late-night television host Jay Leno gave him a chance to “punch back” at Kentucky’s backwoods image.

Fletcher said he enjoyed his appearance Tuesday night on “The Tonight Show with Jay Leno,” but added he was glad to be back “doing my job and leaving the stand-up comedy to professionals.”

The Republican governor defended the commonwealth’s honor after Leno poked fun at the state’s plans for a new image-building catch phrase. Leno offered “Ken-

tucky: Got Teeth?” as a potential marketing slogan.

Fletcher wasn’t pleased and fired off a terse letter to Leno, prompting the invitation to appear on the show. Fletcher came out wielding a Louisville Slugger bat that he presented to Leno. Standing next to Leno on stage, the first-term governor said he wanted to “set a few things straight.” Fletcher tried to stay stone-faced when Leno offered several new marketing slogans for Kentucky during the show. Among them:

■ “Kentucky: As seen on TV, mostly on ‘Jerry Springer’ and ‘Cops.’”

■ “Kentucky: The first state to recognize same-sibling marriage.”

■ “When you don’t want to deal with traffic, half our cars are up on blocks.”

Fletcher got in a few licks of his own, aimed at Los Angeles.

■ “L.A.: Come for the silicone, stay for the Botox.”

■ “L.A.: Married, divorced, remarried, all in about an hour.”

■ His last slogan — “In Kentucky, we pay higher stud fees” — a reference to the state’s status as a horse-breeding capital.

For too long, the state has been defensive about its less-than-sophisticated image, Fletcher said Wednesday.

Movie star Ashley Judd, whose family has deep roots in Kentucky, also talked up the commonwealth during the show.

Her suggested slogans included: “Get Lucky in Kentucky.”



NSC/AP

Kentucky Gov. Ernie Fletcher, right, and Jay Leno jokingly spar over possible new slogans for both Kentucky and Los Angeles during “The Tonight Show with Jay Leno” on Tuesday.

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## Triple-dog dare

**NE** SCOTTSBLUFF — Two men who were arrested for walking through a Wal-Mart while wearing women's thong underwear blamed the stunt on a "triple-dog dare," authorities said.

The men, ages 35 and 36, bought two pair of underwear at the store Tuesday, went into a bathroom and came out wearing only the thongs and T-shirts, police said.

Witnesses said the men walked through the store and out to their car. Police caught the men in the parking lot.

When asked why they were wearing thong underwear, one of the men said a friend "triple-dog dared" them. They will not be prosecuted, authorities said.

## Sweet reward soups

**MO** KANSAS CITY — Kansas City police have taken a liking for a new program that rewards motorists who drive safely by giving them free ice cream.

Sgt. Don Jantzen of the North Patrol Division said residents expressed concerns about the program and the department's legal counsel advised officers to stop it. He said the division commander will revamp it and come up with a new approach within two weeks.

Paula Talley was rewarded Monday for wearing her seat belt and yielding to traffic. She said she was afraid being stopped would make her late for work, although she made it on time.

"My job probably wouldn't have cared about free ice cream," she said.

## Money laundering

**GA** COLUMBUS — City officials had to launder some money after a backhoe operator found \$46,000 while moving garbage at a landfill.

They tried to clean the gross greenbacks so the money could be deposited in a bank.

But after the police were notified, police Lt. Gil Slouchick said the money was counted and stored at the Columbus Police Department.

Police said they were not immediately able to determine where the money came from, but after 90 days it becomes abandoned property and the city may be eligible to claim it.

"It was found buried in garbage that had been there for some time," Deputy City Manager Issah Hugley said Tuesday. "It had been there for a number of years."

## Fire extinguisher stinks

**WA** FERDALE — Crews fighting a blaze in a three-acre manure lagoon Wednesday smothered the flames with more of the same — a blanket of wet cow manure.

The cause of the fire was not known. It started Sunday in brush growing on the crust of manure, wood chips and barn shavings on the surface of the lagoon, which is 24 feet deep.

After working with water and foam, crews began spraying the wet manure on Tuesday. Another hose was applied on Wednesday, and Assistant Fire Chief Larry Hoffman said the fire appeared to be "98-99 percent" out.



## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Hoffman received an earful of complaints about the smoke and odor as the fire burned on a dairy farm outside Ferndale, about 100 miles north of Seattle.

"We're not the most popular department in town," he said.

## Must protect mice?

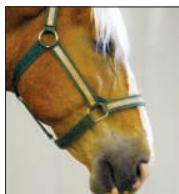
**FL** TALLAHASSEE — The federal government has just over two years to reconsider its refusal to designate critical habitat to protect hundreds of endangered nocturnal beach mice found only on a Florida Panhandle peninsula.

Senior U.S. District Judge William Stafford issued an order Tuesday that could eventually lead to placing habitat for the St. Andrew beach mouse off-limits to human use.

An estimated 300 to 500 of the mice live in dunes mostly in the St. Joseph Peninsula State Park on Cape San Blas, a remote sand spit about 80 miles southwest of Tallahassee.

## Reporting underage sex

**KS** WICHITA — A federal judge ruled Monday that doctors, nurses and other health care professionals in Kansas cannot be forced to report instances of underage sex to authorities.



## A head above

Makenzi Yoder, 4, takes a close look at a 6-year-old Belgian draft horse, Master KC, at the 2004 American Royal Kids Agriculture Learning Fest in Kansas City, Mo. Makenzi owns a mule that also is on display at the fest.

U.S. District Judge J. Thomas Marten issued a preliminary injunction blocking Kansas Attorney General Phill Kline's interpretation of a state law.

Sex involving someone under 16 is illegal in Kansas, even if it involves willing same-age partners. Last July, Kline said the 1982 law requires doctors, nurses, psychiatrists, social workers and others to report such illegal underage sex to law enforcement officials or the state.

The Center for Reproductive Rights, a New York advocacy group, argued that such a requirement would discourage young people from seeking counseling or medical treatment, including abortions.

The judge sided with the advocacy group.

## Record budget OK'd

**IL** SPRINGFIELD — Illinois lawmakers adopted a \$45.5 billion state budget Saturday, 54 days into a record-breaking over-term legislative session and three weeks after the start of the fiscal year.

The new budget, which erased a multibillion-dollar deficit, increased spending on education and health care but provided for across the board cuts elsewhere by as much as 4 percent.

Officials hope to bring in \$150 million by ending some corporate tax breaks, \$260 million by taking "surplus" money from accounts for special state government programs, \$225 million by changing the same funds administrative fees; and \$35 million in new fees and fines for businesses, convictions and other activities.

## Soundproofing by airport

**NH** MANCHESTER — About 80 more homes near Manchester's airport will be soundproofed with \$2.5 million in new federal grants, federal transportation and local airport officials said.

About 700 homes are on a waiting list for the aid, but the streets that will benefit haven't been chosen yet, officials said.

Homes near the airport usually cost between \$300,000 and \$400,000 to soundproof. Federal funds usually pay about 90 percent of the cost, while the airport and state pay the rest.

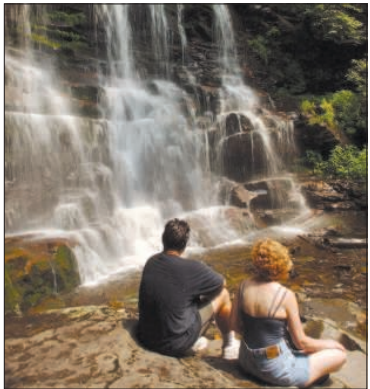
The money is part of \$11.5 million in federal funding coming to the airport. The remaining cash will help offset the cost of runway and safety upgrades, as well as bankroll an upcoming property purchase.

## Teams drop out

**OH** CLEVELAND — Problems with obtaining visas have forced cities in Cameroon, Iraq, Nigeria and the Philippines to drop plans to send teams to the upcoming International Children's Games.

About 50 athletes and coaches will not be able to attend the multi-sport competition, which opens Friday and is being held in the United States for the first time since it was founded in 1968.

"It's disappointing, especially because a lot of the paperwork was already in," said David Gilbert, president of the Greater Cleveland Sports Commission, which is organizing the games. "With the current world situation, it's sometimes difficult to get visas."



## Wondrous waterfall

Rich and Pauline Kanter sit at the base of the 94-foot Ganoga Falls in Ricketts Glen State Park in Pennsylvania. Ganoga Falls is the largest waterfall in the park. A confluence of creeks running down the Allegheny Front Trail make for almost two dozen waterfalls at Ricketts Glen.



## It's a dog's life

Basie, the Steger family's golden retriever, wet from romping in Lake Michigan and covered in sand, snuggles next to a sunbathing Michele Steger of Racine, as the family spends the late morning hours sunbathing at North Beach Park in Racine, Wis.



## Getting ready for the big top

Dutchess, a 33-year-old Asian elephant, gets a wash from handler Duane Ploof before the 50th annual Birak Shrine Circus with George Carden Circus International at the West Otter Tail Fairgrounds in Fergus Falls, Minn.





## Hair-slinging water fight

**Danielle Damone, 13, right, flips her hair after dunking her head in a water bucket while Chris Stage, 13, left, stands back during a water gun fight at the X-treme Teen Adventure Camp in Jensen Beach, Fla. The summer day camp includes snorkeling, digital photography, horseback riding, sailing and windsurfing.**



## Rolling along

**Ms. Nebraska, Penny Silvius, smiles as she wheels her way down 5th Street in Richmond, Va., during a parade that is part of the Ms. Wheelchair America program.**



## Headed for the pot

**George Le-Bert of Miami holds his prize catch on the first day of lobster mini season in Key Biscayne, Fla.**



## A study in cheese

**Josette Yannias, left, and Candace Owens taste different cheeses at the 21st annual American Cheese Society Conference in Milwaukee.**

## Debris-burning dangers

**NH** CONCORD — The towns of Hopkinton and Henniker may join forces to oppose a plan to burn construction debris at a plant on Route 127.

Residents have said they're concerned the debris could be coated in lead paint or other toxic material and cause pollution.

Hopkinton residents have opposed the plan for about one year.

That town's leaders met with their Henniker counterparts this week and discussed the issue.

A company named Bio Energy would run the debris-burning plant.

Bio Energy has received state permission to emit 2.6 tons of lead into the air annually.

The permit is facing a legal challenge. Arguments in a lawsuit over whether the company's state permits are scheduled for September in state Supreme Court.

## Money for mentally ill

**NV** CARSON CITY — The state Board of Examiners plans a special meeting Friday to vote on an emergency \$2 million appropriation for a temporary 30-bed psychiatric hospital in Las Vegas to handle mentally ill people now crowding hospital emergency rooms. Officials say the funds will cover operating costs from Aug. 1 until February when the Legislature convenes.

## Trial for swim suit set

**TX** BRENNHAM — Trial has been set for November in a lawsuit filed by a Brenham woman who contends her civil rights were violated when she was booted from a city-run swimming pool after she balked at getting into the water to supervise her then 5-year-old grandson.

Lifeguards at Brenham's Blue Bell Aquatic Center told Donna Martin she'd have help her grandson because he wasn't a good enough swimmer. Pool rules said a parent or guardian had to supervise children under 10 although the rules didn't specify the older person physically had to be in the water.

Martin refused repeated requests by lifeguards to get into the water and the dispute escalated to the point where police had to be summoned to escort her away.

In her suit, set to be heard Nov. 24 in U.S. District Court in Austin, Martin contends the ouster during the July 2002 incident, plus a 180-day ban from the pool, violated her civil rights. Pool officials contend they were concerned with the child's safety. The city and two pool officials are defendants in the suit.

## City loses dot-com

**GA** MARIETTA — The city of Marietta hoped to get in on the Internet boom when it launched its own company eight years ago.

Now, the city is selling its Fiber-Net at a loss of about \$24 million.

The Board of Lights and Water and the City Council were expected to vote Thursday to approve the sale to American Fiber Systems of Rochester, N.Y., for \$11.2 million — a figure that's expected to decrease once adjustments are made before closing the deal, which is

scheduled for Aug. 31.

FiberNet has about 180 customers along 210 miles of fiber-optic cable stretching from Kennesaw to Alpharetta and into Atlanta, which is just south of the Chattahoochee River from Marietta.

The city has poured about \$35 million into building and maintaining the system since 1996.

## Museum missing money

**NY** NEW YORK — Two employees have been charged with stealing \$880,000 in cash over 2½ years from the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Manhattan district attorney's office said Thursday.

Nafeem Wahlah, 29, manager of visitor services, allegedly stole \$850,000 by voiding ticket sales and pocketing the money.

Investigators allegedly found \$800,000 in her Brooklyn home, prosecutors said.

Rowan Foley, 34, of Queens, allegedly stole \$30,000 the same way.

The investigation began after Foley told museum officials that he suspected Wahlah, his boss, was stealing money.

In June, private investigators set up two hidden cameras behind the ticket-selling counter and in a room where visitors' services employees counted the day's receipts.

## Box bombers busted

**WV** MARTINSBURG — Two men accused of detonating a homemade bomb inside a newspaper street box did not get far before they were caught. Police Chief Ted Anderson was at a nearby residence when the explosion occurred.

Anderson heard the Wednesday night explosion and went to the scene, where he saw smoke coming out of one of The Journal's boxes and a vehicle fleeing, he said Thursday.

Anderson gave chase and captured the suspects several blocks away. Inside the vehicle, he found a plastic soda bottle filled with a substance that police believe was gunpowder. The van was wrapped with duct tape.

Dustin Wayne Stout, 24, who has no fixed address, was charged with criminal use of a destructive device, explosive material or incendiary device. Andrew Lee Pauley, 18, of Martinsburg was charged with possession of a destructive device.

## Roadside-hunting fines

**VT** MONTPELIER — The Department of Fish and Wildlife will issue stiffer penalties this fall for hunters who shoot deer from the road or from vehicles.

The maximum fine will increase from \$50 and a one-year loss of hunting and fishing license to \$1,000.

Sportsmen said they expect the fine increases — which apply to road or vehicle shooting of all wildlife — to be well received by law-abiding hunters.

"The only ones who expressed resistance are the ones who break the law," said Clint Gray, northern vice president of the Vermont Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs.

"The fine increase 'elevates it to the offense that it is,' he said. 'Before it was just a slap on the wrist.'"

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## Addresses

U.S. MAIL: INT 25480, APO AE 09211  
INTERNATIONAL MAIL: Postfach 1330, 63435 Griesheim, Germany  
FAX: 49-69-849-8416; c/o (+49) 011 6155-601416  
E-MAIL: News, news@mailto.istripes.com  
Circulation, circ@mailto.istripes.com  
CENTRAL OFFICE: 529 14th Street NW, Suite 350, Washington DC 20045-1001. Phone: (202) 312-76-0900 or c/o (+49) 011 6155-601416  
EDITORIAL: David Mazzur, 529 14th St. NW, Suite 350, Washington, DC 20045-1001. Phone: (202) 312-76-0945 or c/o (+49) 011 6155-601416  
E-MAIL: mazzur@mailto.istripes.com and mazzur@istripes.com

ON-SMALL: Les Burgess, c/o comments to: OnSmall, Stars and Stripes, 529 14th St. NW, Suite 350, Washington, D.C. 20045-1001. Phone: civilian (+49) 011 6155-6032; fax (+49) 011 6155-6036; e-mail: on-small@mailto.istripes.com

## How to call us

Editor: (202) 312-8237; c/o (+49) 011 6155-601227  
FAX: (202) 312-8462; c/o (+49) 011 6155-601400  
Sports: (202) 312-8225; c/o (+49) 011 6155-601225  
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## BDU rule is nonsense

The other day I read an e-mail that had been posted by our commander. It was sent to him from higher up to warn that punishment would soon be given out to soldiers caught not wearing their battle-dress uniform tops while riding in convoys. It also mentioned (gasp) soldiers were not wearing their heavy, uncomfortable Kevlars in Kuwait.

We took off our BDU tops because it is roughly the same temperature as hell out-side. It is a daily occurrence while out on the road to administer IVs to four or five soldiers. It doesn't make sense to wear long-sleeve shirts when in the cab of a truck where it is nearly 200 degrees. These soldiers are drinking plenty of water.

They understand that it is necessary to stay hydrated. We had a class on the subject — the same class that taught us to remove the BDU blouse and unbutton the boots to aid a soldier suffering from heat exhaustion. It would make sense to do so before the soldier actually collapsed would be considered a preventive measure.

In basic training we would unbutton our boots as soon as we broke 100 degrees. It's an Army regulation, the drill sergeant informed us. Why would it be wrong to unbutton our boots when it's 130 degrees outside?

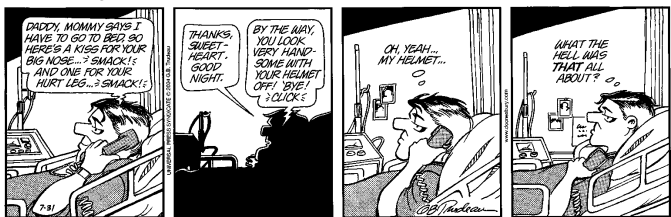
We are told to wear Kevlars in Kuwait. Why? I'm not in any danger of being shot at. Is it to protect me in the event of an accident? I drive an M1070 HET tractor truck. It weighs something like 100,000 pounds.

Does it sound like I'm stressed out? A little frazzled perhaps? Well, I am. And I'm not alone. And I don't need an MWR trip. I don't need a massage or an ice cream cone. I need to be treated like an adult and allowed to make my own decisions on simple tasks like how to dress myself. I'm not an idiot.

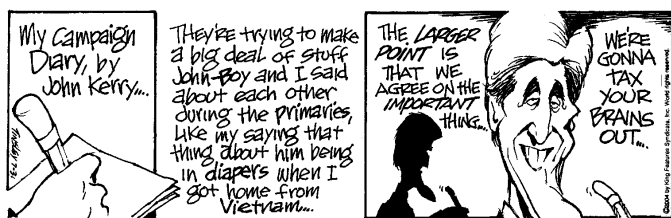
We are all out here doing our best, so give us a little break, will ya?

Sgt. Kristopher Karr  
Kuwait/Iraq

## Doonesbury



## Mallard Fillmore



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\$100,000 or less, the tax rate is 15 percent. If you made more than \$100,000, then your tax rates are higher. Take a look at your take-home pay. Federal income tax was reduced from 15 percent to 10 percent. Do the math or check out Web sites to verify.

What is wrong keeping your own money in your paycheck? It's about time we had a tax break for middle-class families like ourselves.

People should read more. It appears people would rather listen to the latest conspiracy theory on late-night radio because it's more entertaining but not based on logic or reasoning.

Lisa Lindel  
Waukegan, Ill.

## More Stripes Travel, please

I wanted to add my disappointment to the letter "Small travel section" (July 22).

I, too, was rather disappointed in the condensing of the section. It is such a great reference to use when you are planning your travels through Europe. I appreciate hearing what travelers have to say about places and knowing what is going on across the regions.

I also have to agree that if you don't get your paper early on Thursday, you may not get one.

Colleen A. Malcom  
Heidelberg, Germany

## Picture perfect for proud dad

To see a picture of your son doing his job so far away from home was a real treat and joy ("Refueling tanks adapt to operations in the Mideast" — front-page photo for all editions except Italy, July 22). Having the Internet makes the world seem so small, as I know it is not. You worry so much about your family being so far away from you in a war environment. It makes me feel so proud of him.

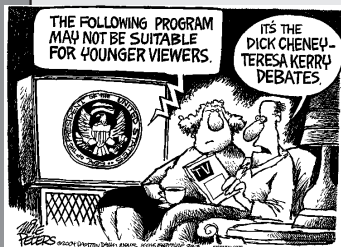
Gary R. Garrison  
Muskegon, Okla.

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

BY BRUCE TINSLEY

# Looking at the news

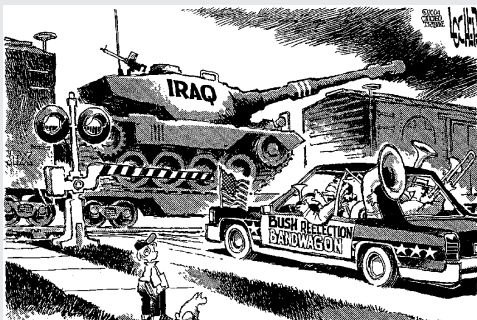
A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons



MIKE PETERS/King Features Syndicate



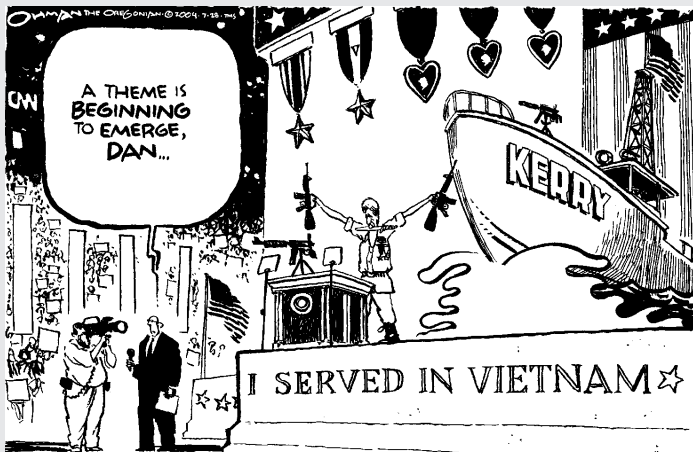
BILL DEGORE/Universal Press Syndicate



DICK LOCHER/Tribune Media Services



STEVE GREENBERG/Scraps Howard



JACK OHMAN/Tribune Media Services





## FACES 'N' PLACES

## His religion is back

## R.E.M. singer Stipe tackles faith on film

BY PHOEBE FLOWERS  
South Florida Sun-Sentinel

MIAMI

Michael Stipe is best known as the lead singer of the enduring, ever-evolving rock band R.E.M., which in turn is best known for the 13-year-old hit song "Losing My Religion."

Now, in the first of three movies he produced that will be released this year, Stipe is again tackling the subject of faith.

In "Saved!," a barbed comedy set at a Christian high school that opened in the States recently, an idealistic teenage girl named Mary (Jena Malone) is forced to question her beliefs when her "perfect Christian boyfriend" (Chad Faust) confesses he might be gay.

One of the most interesting things about "Saved!" the debut of writer-director Brian Dannelly, is that it is ultimately a straightforward high school movie. And Stipe, who also served as a producer on films including "Being John Malkovich" and "Our Song," confesses that was part of what drew him to the script.

"The industry of film is one that's not very open to new ideas," Stipe, 44, said during a recent interview in a North Miami recording studio, where he is putting finishing touches on the forthcoming R.E.M. album.

"Part of my attraction as a producer to this film is it does shoot right down the middle. It's a genre of film that we all know; it climaxes at the senior prom. I mean, it is that high school movie. I think what makes it different is, number one, it's very, very funny, like 'Fast Times at Ridgemont High' or like 'Heathers.' But it's set in a Christian high school, and it's taking on a couple of things that some of those other films maybe touched on or maybe ignored altogether, but things that... are questions that



Michael Stipe of R.E.M. performs at the annual San Diego Street Scene in California.

KURT PHOTOS

each of us has to face at some point."

Despite the fears of mockery that many Christians may have had upon learning of the subject matter, "Saved!" is actually a fairly balanced portrayal of the faith, ultimately preaching tolerance and kindness.

But not everyone feels that way. The

deeply conservative Jerry Falwell blasted the movie, which he had yet to see, on CNN, hopefully predicting that it would "crash and burn." Christian Film & Television Commission founder Ted Baehr derided it as "a sad, bigoted, anti-Christian movie."

On the other hand, the publication Christianity Today, while griping that some of the characters are excessively two-dimensional, does allow that "the movie is ultimately pro-faith and does make many perceptive criticisms of evangelicals."

Regardless of your feelings about the movie, Stipe, who says he "comes from a long line of Methodist ministers," is optimistic that "Saved!" will get people talking and "create a little bit of a dialogue be-

tween people who are very extreme in their faith and people who just have faith. Or don't have faith."

So far, audiences seem to be responding. After a few weeks of limited release and a single day of wide release, "Saved!" had raked in an estimated \$2.14 million — nearly half its production budget.

Certainly, in a year in which Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ" has blown away the box office, so far grossing an astounding \$370 million (and another \$238 million overseas), the culture is ripe for movies addressing the always-tendacious topic of faith.

Stipe — who, despite his Methodist background, has been identified as an atheist by Dannelly — credits "The Passion" with providing "this climate where belief-based films are more acceptable."

Consider that in the past few years, the closest thing we've had to a thoughtful look at religion was the Jim Carrey comedy "Bruce Almighty," or the far-from-mainstream, apocalypse-themed "Left Behind" series of books.

## Lil' extra time for Lil' Kim

A federal judge in New York on Wednesday postponed the trial of rapper Lil' Kim on charges she lied to a grand jury to give her lawyers more time to review the prosecution's evidence.

Prosecutors objected to the delay from November to Feb. 28. The rapper, whose real name is Kimberly Jones, is charged with conspiracy, perjury and obstruction.

Prosecutors have accused Jones of lying to a grand jury investigating a 2001 shooting allegedly involving members of her entourage. One man from a rival rap group was injured.

Jones' former manager and co-defendant, Damon Butler, has been indicted for allegedly shooting a weapon during the incident. Jones is accused of telling the grand jury that Butler was not present.



Lil' Kim

## Rappers go jail for arts' sake

Lil' Wayne taped a music video at the closed 108-year-old Ohio State Reformatory in Mansfield, which has become a popular backdrop for videos and movies.

About 30 teens showed up Tuesday for a glimpse of the 21-year-old rapper during taping for the song "Go DJ" from his album "Tha Carter."

The Mansfield Reformatory Preservation Society charged Lil' Wayne about \$2,000 for the use of the west cell block, which has five tiers and 250 cells. The group needs \$10 million to \$20 million to renovate the site, society administrator Ed Mechin said.

The prison was used in the filming of 1994's "The Shawshank Redemption."

Several years later, it appeared as a Russian prison in the movie "Air Force One."

Two other films and a 2000 music video for the group Godsmack also were made at the prison. Besides regular tours of the site, the society offers a "Hollywood" tour where they point out movie props and sites where famous scenes were filmed.

The prison, which closed in 1990, was built as a reformatory.

## J.Lo love life: Take two

"J.Lo, Phase Two" isn't a new summer movie — it's a state of mind for the actress-singer.

"I feel like this is my phase two, like it's a new beginning," Jennifer Lopez tells *InStyle* magazine in its August issue. "Like everything I did before really doesn't matter."

After two failed marriages and her much publicized romances with Sean "P. Diddy" Combs and Ben Affleck, the 34-year-old pop star seems intent on not leaving a trail of glitter and gossip wherever she goes.

"Maybe I was a little bit careless in the past," she says.

"I'm not a perfect person. I make mistakes. I just feel like I'm in a better place about who I am. I follow my heart. That's the one thing I can say about myself. And I love that about myself."



Lopez

From wire reports



Michael Stipe, the lead singer of the rock band R.E.M., is producing three movies in which the subject of faith is addressed.

# Horoscope

The full moon in Aquarius is that rare phenomenon called a blue moon. The term is used to describe the second full moon in one month or, more traditionally, the fourth full moon in a season. Use the extraordinary occurrence to do something you hardly ever do, take a wild chance or enjoy an indulgence that's uncommon to you.

## TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

**(July 31).** Your commitment to your own mission makes you powerful. October shows you studying, adopting new thought patterns and attracting a powerful mentor. Early November is ideal for presenting your business ideas or applying for a higher position.

Singles spark with prospects in December, and relationships have a passionate cycle into the new year.

## ARIES (March 21-April 19)

Your curiosity usually leads you in a terribly interesting direction, but now, the need to know could get you in trouble. This probably won't displease you because you want the truth at any cost, and you can't be blamed for that.

## TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

You may feel a little disconnected from reality, which is simply because you're in a state of overload. The remedy is not to do less but to add more to your plate. This forces you to prioritize and focus.

## GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

You may find yourself saying "no" a hundred times — you're not being negative. Rather, you are figuring out what you really want by process of elimination. Drama builds in a love relationship. This is the stuff soap operas are built on.

## CANCER (June 22-July 22)

You'll be magically drawn to what teaches you more about life. It's a challenge to get a group of people organized toward one task, but you're the one who is able to get others in a cooperative mood, so take the lead.

## LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

You're a detective, ferreting out the true motivations of others — seemingly

illlogical behaviors are clever disguises that you see right through. Use one of your well-entrenched talents to make an impression on someone tonight.

## VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Keep your imagination in check. In your mind, you've built what seems like a monstrous obstacle to the success of a relationship. In actuality, this problem can probably be handled in one courageous phone call.

## LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

You get instant respect if you can set standards and stick to them. An adversary may offer you a direct challenge, and you'll probably win if you accept, but is it worth it? Time away from it all is what you need tonight.

## SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

You believe in magic, it happens. You'll get a platform to speak your wishes and state your cause. You have lots of fans; at least one is in high position. Make sure there is plenty of time for fun interaction with your family.

## SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Feeling affectionate, you attract those who need to be cuddled and cocooned. Since you are currently blinded by a potential sweetheart's attractiveness, don't make rash choices. Dance by yourself tonight.

## CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Parents are on your mind — heal old wounds by being the first to forgive. You may be called on to defend someone. Give up on normal, strict relationship requirements. Friends show you in your best light.

## AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

People in your inner circle are the treasures of your life. Informal gatherings are the best. The conversation is interesting, the food is delicious, and everyone takes special care to be charming.

## PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

A romantic encounter turns into an adventure. Travel is indicated. You'll run into key people who are receptive to your playful energy. Singles find love on the go. Taurus and Gemini are the luckiest to partner with.

Creators Syndicate

Joyce Jillson



## Calvin and Hobbes



## Jump Start



## Zits



## Cathy



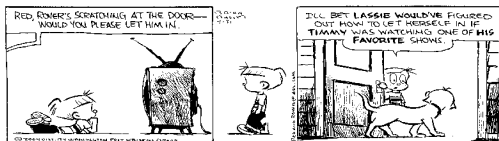
## Hi and Lois



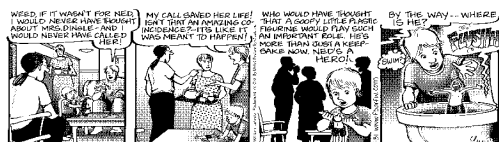
## Beetle Bailey



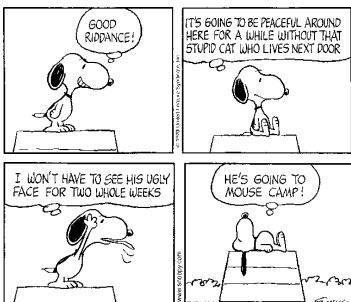
## Red and Rover



## Better or Worse



## Peanuts



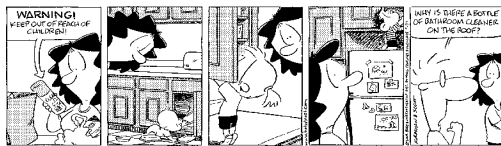
Fotrot



B.C.



Blues



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



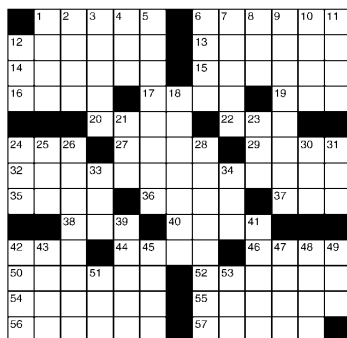
Hagar



Garfield



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword



### Across

- 1 Hoofed beast of the tropics
- 6 Exalted
- 12 Danson's
- 13 "Cheers" role
- 14 Hard and cold
- 15 In the vicinity
- 16 Kitchen gadget
- 17 "Well"-financed org.
- 18 Basilica section
- 19 Expert
- 20 Ship's framework
- 22 Trench
- 24 Blubber
- 27 Carrots' mates
- 29 Stead
- 32 Joe Klein best seller
- 35 Bygone times
- 36 Actress Polo
- 37 Tandoori bread
- 38 Stick with a kick
- 40 Hang (on)
- 42 Jongg precursor
- 44 One of the "Golden Girls"
- 46 Writer Ferber
- 50 Establish by decree
- 52 Approached
- 54 Hard to find
- 55 Proofreader's headpieces
- 56 Minty seasonings
- 57 Body shop concerns

### Down

- 1 Rainout need
- 2 Lotion additive
- 3 Joey's place?
- 4 Hostel
- 5 Signal of imminent danger
- 6 Venomous vipers
- 7 Precipitous
- 8 Driver's spot
- 9 Kinship
- 10 A Baldwin
- 11 Muse's musician
- 12 Long March leader
- 18 Cast
- 21 — tree
- 23 Under the weather
- 24 Austin Powers, e.g.
- 25 Acapulco gold
- 26 Present time?
- 28 Used caller ID
- 30 Detergent name
- 31 Annapolis abbr.
- 33 Chaps
- 34 Tin Man's need
- 39 Moment
- 41 Long
- 42 Maximum
- 43 St. Louis landmark
- 45 Individuals
- 47 "Phooey!"
- 48 Continental
- 49 Airlines Arena team
- 51 Branch
- 53 Prior to

### Answer to Previous Puzzle



### 7-31

### CRYPTOQUIP

B B Z W F B K D W E D W Y Y X  
F I I C - Y I I O B K F G W E G W E B W K  
F H X Z B F Q J G D K W Z D C

W J J B Y W J O D Q H K O.  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT LAMINATED PLASTIC BRAND WOULD A BIBLICAL PROPHET USE? FOR-MICAH, OF COURSE!  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals B









Two days after he was cut by the Tennessee Titans, running back Eddie George, left, was signed to an incentive-heavy deal by the Cowboys.

## Great: Adding RB George strengthened backfield

GREAT, FROM BACK PAGE

The Cowboys made a late splashy move, signing running back Eddie George to a one-year, incentive-filled deal. To cash in, he'll have to beat out second-round pick Julius Jones, who is trying to become Dallas' first rookie starter at running back since NFL career rushing leader Emmitt Smith 14 years ago.

Quincy Carter started all 16 games at quarterback last year, but Testaverde expects a chance to start while serving as a mentor to Carter, Henson and Tony Romo.

"[Quincy] earned the starting job here last year. He was the best guy at that position last year," Parcells said. "I play that best guy. They all know that. They have been told that. It's not shrouded in secrecy."

Chad Hutchinson eliminated himself by playing poorly in NFL Europe and was released. The former pro pitcher went 2-7 after becoming the starter midway through 2002, but lost the job to Carter after Parcells arrived.

Johnson is the possession-type receiver the Cowboys have missed since Michael Irvin was forced into retirement by injury five years ago. After some contentious times in Tampa Bay, and being deactivated by the Buccaneers before last season ended, Johnson is ready to play again for Parcells.

"Once I got away from that situation, it was kind of like, have a good time, have fun again," Johnson said. "He [Parcells] is the only head coach that I like to play for."

Perennial Pro Bowl offensive lineman Larry Allen didn't enjoy his first season for Parcells, often clashing with the coach and being singled out for his poor conditioning. Allen was even on the trading block and not part of offseason workouts until he got in better shape.

Antonio Bryant remains, even after being kicked out of a June workout when he threw his jersey into Parcells' face. Parcells hasn't publicly addressed the issue but didn't cut the young receiver, who was upset about his lack of work behind Johnson and Terry Glenn.

### 2004 Dallas Cowboys schedule

Sun, Sept. 12	at Minnesota
Wed, Sept. 8	Cleveland
Mon, Sept. 27	at Seattle
Sun, Oct. 3	at Washington
Sun, Oct. 10	N.Y. Giants
Sun, Oct. 17	at Pittsburgh
Sun, Oct. 24	at Green Bay
Sun, Oct. 31	Detroit
Sun, Nov. 7	at Cincinnati
Mon, Nov. 15	Philadelphia
Sun, Nov. 21	at Baltimore
Thu, Nov. 25	Chicago
Sun, Dec. 5	at Minnesota
Sun, Dec. 12	New Orleans
Sun, Dec. 19	at Philadelphia
Sun, Dec. 26	at N.Y. Giants
Sun, Jan. 9	at Washington



Bryant met Monday with Parcells and team owner Jerry Jones, and went to camp with the team.

The NFL's top-ranked defense hopes to solve its biggest weakness with the addition of Wiley (41 career sacks).

"I think it can be real beneficial, helping each other," said defensive end Greg Ellis, who had a team-high eight sacks last year. "If we can do what we did last year and improve, we've got a lot of good chances to get to the quarterback."

Linebacker Dexter Coakley made his third Pro Bowl last season but found himself behind second-year player Bradie James during a minicamp. That doesn't mean Coakley won't start, but Parcells likes the 243-pound James, who impressed on special teams as a rookie.

The secondary, already questionable at cornerback, sustained a blow when Darrell Woodson had surgery this week to remove a ruptured disc from his back. The 13th-year safety will be out up to eight weeks, and won't be back until after the start of the season.

The Cowboys' last two camps were inside San Antonio's Alamodome, but they were summertime regulars in California before moving back home in 1990. They spent a couple of weeks in Oxnard three years ago to get away from the suffocating heat of Wichita Falls.

But there is no place for players to go to escape Parcells' heat.

# Browns make offer to Winslow

## Deal would make No. 6 pick NFL's richest tight end

BY TOM WITHERS  
The Associated Press

BEREA, Ohio — The Cleveland Browns want to make rookie Kellen Winslow Jr. the highest paid tight end in NFL history.

The club has offered Winslow, the No. 6 overall pick in last April's draft, a contract that would exceed the \$31 million the Kansas City's Tony Gonzalez signed before the 2002 season.

Gonzalez's deal included a \$10 million signing bonus, the most ever given to a tight end.

In an unusual move designed to put pressure on Winslow's agent, Kevin Poston, the Browns released a statement two hours before the club opened training camp to announce that they had made their "best offer" to the former University of Miami star. Teams almost never disclose contract figures — even after the deal is done.

The Browns publicly provided the framework for negotiations.

They said their deal matches the seven-year, \$18 million contract safety Sean Taylor, the No. 5 overall pick and Winslow's former college teammate, signed this week with the Washington Redskins.

Taylor received a \$7.2 million signing bonus and a total package that could exceed \$13 million in guaranteed compensation.

"Given the close personal and competitive relationship between Kellen and Sean Taylor, as well as

their equal talent level on different sides of the football, we did not want to penalize Kellen for being picked one slot below his former teammate," Browns President John Collins said in the statement. "Faced with the opportunity to get Kellen in camp on time, we made our best offer."

Kevin Poston and his brother Carl have a reputation for demanding the most for their clients. The Redskins announced before the draft they would take Winslow because he was not represented by the Postons.

In their statement, the Browns said they examined Gonzalez's deal. It said they offered "compensation" Kellen Winslow the opportunity to far exceed Gonzalez's "promise." The Browns have had negotiations with Poston all week. The sides had face-to-face talks on Wednesday at the team's headquarters.

At the time, coach Butch Davis said the club would negotiate in the media, but that is exactly where things have gone.

The Browns traded a second-round pick to Detroit and moved up one spot from No. 7 to No. 6 so they could select Winslow, the son of Hall of Famer Kellen Winslow.

Cleveland's last three first-round picks — center Jeff Faine, running back William Green and defensive tackle Gerard Warren — briefly held out of camp before signing.

The Browns fear that if Poston rejects their offer, Winslow's holdout could be lengthy.

*"Faced with the opportunity to get Kellen in camp on time, we made our best offer."*

John Collins  
Browns president

# Raiders sign top pick Gallery

The Associated Press

NAPA, Calif. — Offensive tackle Robert Gallery, the second overall pick in the NFL Draft, signed a seven-year contract with the Oakland Raiders on Thursday.

A source familiar with the negotiations, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the deal could pay Gallery as much as \$18.5 million in guaranteed money and \$60 million over the life of the contract.

The Raiders did not release details of the contract and would not confirm salary figures.

Gallery was to be in uniform when the Raiders opened training camp Friday morning.

"It was very important. For me to do the best job I can and do the things I wanted to do, I had to be here on the first day," Gallery said. "I went through the whole process and knew kind of where I stood. Signing your name under the Raiders' kind of took some breath away and I was kind of shaky signing my contract."

Gallery already bought a home in the East Bay area. He has never seen this kind of money, pointing out that his father once paid him for a week of working on the family farm.

"I've had more debt than I've had transactions in my life," Gallery said.

Gallery, who played at Iowa, is considered the best offensive line prospect since Orlando Pace went No. 1 overall to St. Louis in 1997. As he's expected to compete for a starting job right away at left tackle.



"Obviously, you draft a guy with the second pick and those are your hopes, that he can come in and do those kinds of things," coach Norv Turner said. "Robert was extremely impressive in our spring work."

The Raiders received several trade offers leading up to their pick, but were much more interested in getting the 6-foot-7, 323-pound Gallery for themselves.

### Cowboys sign top pick Jones, fourth-round CB Thornton

OXNARD, Calif. — The Dallas Cowboys agreed to a six-year deal Thursday with running back Julius Jones.

The former Notre Dame star, the Cowboys' first pick, got a \$1.8 million signing bonus, and the last two years of his deal are voidable. He was chosen over the third-round pick, the 23rd overall pick.

"I'm just happy we got it done on time," Jones said. "I'm glad to be here and now I'm ready to go."

Dallas also signed cornerback Bruce Thornton, a fourth-round pick. The only remaining unsigned draft choice is offensive lineman Jacob Rogers, another second-round pick.

Jones was the fourth running back drafted. He was expected to be the starter until Eddie George was signed last week. They will compete for the job in training camp.

In other NFL news:

■ The New York Jets signed their remaining four draft picks Thursday: third-round selection Derrick Strait, fourth-rounders Jericho Cotchery and Adrian Jones, and sixth-rounder Marko Cavka.

Strait won the Jim Thorpe Award as the nation's top defensive back and the Bronko Nagurski Award as the nation's top defensive player last year at Oklahoma. He had 264 tackles, 14 career interceptions for 397 yards and three touchdowns, seven forced fumbles and six fumble recoveries in his career.

Cotchery, the 108th overall pick, broke North Carolina State career records with 200 catches and 15,100 yards receiving games.

Jones, from Kansas, was the first of two offensive tackles the Jets took in the draft, the other being Cavka from Sacramento State.

■ The Detroit Lions on Thursday signed cornerback Keith Smith and linebacker Alex Lewis, their respective third- and fifth-round draft choices, to three-year deals.

Additional terms weren't disclosed.

■ The Cincinnati Bengals signed quarterback Casey Bramlett, their seventh-round draft pick this year, to a three-year contract on Thursday.

Bramlett started three years at Wyoming and set school records for completions (767), passing yards (9,684) and touchdowns passes (56).

The Bengals also signed cornerback John Allen, a rookie, to a one-year contract.

# Judge in Bryant case apologizes for releasing sealed information

BY JON SARCHÉ  
The Associated Press

EAGLE, Colo. — With the parents of the alleged victim in the courtroom, the judge in the Kobe Bryant sexual assault case apologized Friday for court mistakes that led to the release of sealed information.

During the brief public hearing, District Judge Terry Rucklick told the parents he would treat the mistakes as a learning experience.

"For all of those who come through these doors, victims and defendants alike, whose names are never known and never sought, I can only assure you I have learned lessons from these mistakes, and that we will give our best human effort not to let it happen again," he said.

Then he looked directly at the parents of the 20-year-old accused and said, "Again, I apologize." They nodded in response.

The hearing, one of two scheduled before the trial begins Aug. 27, came one day after Rucklick released an edited transcript from a closed-door hearing in June in which defense attorneys claimed the woman was pursuing the case in part because she has received nearly \$20,000 from a state victims' compensation fund.

Bryant has pleaded not guilty to a felony sexual assault charge, saying he had consensual sex with a 19-year-old employee of the Vail-area resort where he stayed last summer. If convicted, the Los Angeles Lakers star faces four years in life in prison or 20 years to life on probation, and a fine up to \$750,000.

Scheduled for discussion behind closed doors last Friday were requests by Bryant's attorneys to keep his tape-recorded statements to investigators under seal until trial and to limit the prosecution's use of the statements.

Legal experts have speculated the defense might want to keep embarrassing, but not necessarily incriminating, statements out of the trial.

During the public portion of the hearing, the prosecution and defense said they had agreed on how to use DNA evidence obtained from Bryant during a hospital exam after the alleged attack last summer.

Rucklick said the agreement generally means either side could introduce the evidence at any point. Prosecutor Ingrid Bakke later said the only DNA evidence she plans to use was from the alleged victim's blood found on Bryant's T-shirt.

The DNA evidence collected from Bryant was thrown out this month as part of a larger defense request, but the defense now wants the exam results admitted because they presumably bolster their contention the accused had sex with someone after Bryant and before she went to the hospital. Her attorney has denied that claim.

The hospital exam evidence was outlined in a sealed court order accidentally posted on a state court Web site earlier this week.

In the edited transcript released Thursday, defense attorney Pamela Mackey said that the woman received more than \$17,000 in compensation for mental health care, far above the state cap of \$1,125 for such treatment. She also said the woman received \$2,300 in lost wages, and suggested the money was provided as an incentive to continue participation in the case.

Mackey also said the woman would have to reimburse the fund if she was found to have lied — even more reason to press forward with the case.

"Miss [redacted] has profited to an enormous amount, \$20,000, which I would suspect to be a large sum in this county is a lot of money, most of our jurors, and she has done that on the basis of a false allegation and has persisted in that false allegation," she said.

An attorney for the woman, John Clune, called Mackey's arguments "nothing more than tabloid accusations, which are filled with inaccurate information." He declined to elaborate.

# Singh sings Warwick Hills

The Associated Press

in 19 events this year.

GRAND BLANC, Mich. — Vijay Singh and Olin Browne switched putters recently, and they had the best two scores Thursday in the Buick Open.

Singh shot 9-under 63 to take the first-round lead, one shot ahead of Browne and four in front of Tiger Woods.

Singh used a standard putter after using a belly putter for 2½ years.

"I'm a great chipper and a good bunker player, but if you keep missing [short putts], that kind of eats into your game," he said. "And you put so much pressure into going for the flags that whenever you make a mistake, it's a bogey."

The 1997 Buick Open champion from Fiji had eight straight 3s — five birdies, an eagle and two pars — between Nos. 8-15 at Warwick Hills.

Singh was two shots short of the tournament record.

Browne said he changed his putter to one of standard length last week in the U.S. Bank Championship in Milwaukee and came away with a season-best finish: a tie for fourth.

"Sometimes a change is good just for the sake of change, you know what I mean?" he asked. "As opposed to beating your head against the wall in the same spot all the time, move to a different spot."

Browne's 64 matched his low round of the year. He has just two top-10 finishes

## Stupples retains lead in Women's British Open

SUNNINGDALE, England — Karen Stupples compiled another bogey-free round for a 2-under 70 in the Women's British Open on Friday to take an early three-stroke lead.

After her first-round 65 at Sunningdale's Old Course, Stupples' score of 135 ties the 36-hole tournament record for a par-72 course. She shares the mark with Karrie Webb.

South Korea's Jeong Jang carded a 68 for 138 with Laura Davies and Laura Diaz shooting 69 for 139. Another Korean, Jung Yoon Lee remained 5-under for the tournament after an even-par 72, tied with Australia's Rachel Teske (69).

Defending champion Annika Sorenstam started five strokes off the lead but made birdie on the first two holes.

## Jacobson tops field in Senior U.S. Open

ST. LOUIS — Peter Jacobson, still rehabbing from arthroscopic hip surgery, shot 6-under 65 to take the first-round lead in the U.S. Senior Open.

Craig Stadler had a bogey-free round and was second at 5-under.

St. Louis-area native Jay Haas birdied the final two holes to shoot 67.

Seven players had 68, including Gil Morgan, the leading money-winner on the Champions Tour. Tom Kite was among a group of 10 at 69.

## Golf roundup



Vijay Singh switched to a standard-length putter Thursday and took 26 putts in a round of 9-under 63.

# Salary-shedding Nets send Kittles to Clippers

The Associated Press

NEWARK, N.J. — Kerry Kittles for a second-round draft pick Thursday, another step in the dismantling of the New Jersey Nets.

Kittles is the second starter to leave the Nets this month: Power forward Kenyon Martin went to the Denver Nuggets for three first-round draft choices.

Trying to fill the void left by Kittles, who spent eight years with the Nets, the club signed free agent guards Jacque Vaughn and Rodney Buford.

"We're going to try to win every game we can," Nets CEO Rod Thorn said. "We as an organization want to be monetarily responsible. When you look at our position, we can have some money and also have as good, if not a better team, than we were going to have the other way."

Kittles, who is in the final year of his contract, has mixed emotions about leaving New Jersey.

"I've been there my whole career, had a good run, been to the finals twice, and had great teammates," he said in a conference call. "Now I'm looking forward to getting on with my career."

Kittles has averaged 14.3



## Briefs

points, 2.6 assists and 3.9 rebounds a game during his career. Last season, Kittles averaged 13.1 points and 4 rebounds.

## Boozer officially joins Jazz

SALT LAKE CITY — Carlos Boozer's agreement to a \$68 million offer from the Utah Jazz and the furor it caused in Cleveland, where the Cavaliers claimed to have a handshake agreement with the third-year forward, ended Thursday night.

"There was no commitment. It's unfortunate how the turn of events went through the media," Boozer said before he was to sign a six-year deal with the Jazz.

Cleveland had the right to match the Jazz's offer until late Thursday, but didn't have the money or desire.

## Raptors to keep Peterson

NEW ORLEANS — Morris Peterson will stay with the Toronto Raptors, who are matching New Orleans' three-year, \$15 million offer sheet, Hornets GM Allan Bristow said Friday.

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# D-backs brace for future without Big Unit

## Johnson subject of trade rumors as deadline nears

BY JOEL ANDERSON  
The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Randy Johnson was one of the last players to leave the visitors' clubhouse Thursday, slowly gathering his luggage before boarding a bus headed for the airport.

The Arizona Diamondbacks' flight was destined for Denver. Where the Big Unit goes from there is anyone's guess.

"You guys heard anything?" Diamondbacks manager Al Pedrique asked a few reporters before Arizona's 6-4 win over Houston. "My phone hasn't rang yet."

As Saturday's trade deadline approaches, Pedrique has spent lots of time waiting for a call that he hopes never comes: the one bringing news of a trade that sends Johnson from the team with which he's played six years and was co-MVP of its World Series win over the Yankees in 2001.

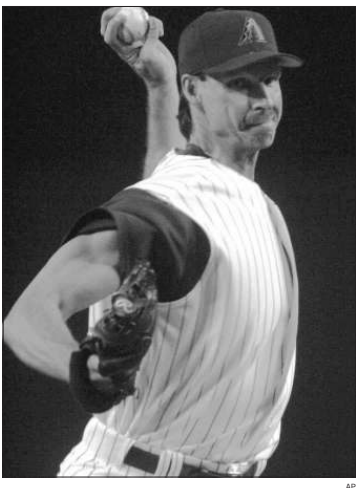
Johnson is scheduled to start against Colorado on Friday night.

Pedrique is optimistic that his 6-foot-10 ace will still be with the team at game time.

"He's starting tomorrow," Pedrique said, "and batting ninth."

The five-time Cy Young Award winner has been the subject of numerous trade rumors as Arizona continues its march to the worst record in baseball.

The New York Yankees are the



The Arizona Diamondbacks aren't sure whether ace Randy Johnson will be with the team after his scheduled start at Colorado on Friday night.

clear front-runners to make a deal for Johnson, but they lack the minor league prospects that Arizona is believed to want in return and may have to find a third team to make it work. Anaheim, Boston and Los Angeles are other

possible candidates.

Johnson, who has a no-trade clause in his contract, would prefer to go only to a place that has a chance to win the World Series.

The 40-year-old left-hander is making \$16 million this season

and is due \$16 million in 2005, the final year of his deal. He said he doesn't want a new contract as part of waving his rights to block a trade.

Regardless, for whatever reason, nothing has happened since Johnson acknowledged two weeks ago during the All-Star break that he'd be willing to be traded to a contender.

Johnson has since grown tired of the trade talk.

"I'm not talking about any of that stuff, OK?" Johnson said Thursday. "I'll talk on the day I pitch, after the game — and only about the game."

The Big Unit has been stewing around the clubhouse the past few days, talking in hushed tones into his cell phone or not talking at all.

It's not hard to understand why Johnson might want out of Phoenix.

The Diamondbacks are in the midst of their worst season since their expansion campaign in 1998, losing 16 of their past 18, including a club-record 14 consecutive losses. The team fired manager Bob Brenly earlier this month and replaced him with Pedrique, the third base coach.

Regardless, the team has struggled to overcome placing 18 players on the disabled list this season, most in the majors. Star slugger Luis Gonzalez announced Thursday that he'll have season-ending ligament replacement surgery Monday.

Many of the Diamondbacks acknowledge that the trade speculation has affected the team.

"It affects everybody. We're all human," Tracy said. "It's just a matter of how much you let it bother you."

## Report: Hull close to joining Stars

The Associated Press

DALLAS — The Dallas Stars have reportedly increased their offer to free agent Brett Hull to more than \$2 million for one season.

Sources told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram and The Dallas Morning News in Friday's editions that Hull is close to agreeing to terms on the pact.

The Stars first talked to their former All-Star wing about returning for a one-year contract for approximately \$1 million, according to the Star-Telegram. But Phoenix reportedly has offered Hull two years at more than \$2 million per season with the second year not guaranteed. It would kick in if Hull met performance incentives.

A deal would reunite Hull with former linemates Mike Modano and Jere Lehtinen, with whom he played for most of his three-year tenure in Dallas.

Hull, who will turn 40 next month, had 25 goals and 68 points last season for Detroit. He ranks third in career goals with 741,

trailing only former Red Wings great Gordie Howe (801) and Wayne Gretzky (894).

**Blues re-sign Pronger for one year, \$10 million**

ST. LOUIS — The St. Louis Blues re-signed restricted free-agent defenseman Chris Pronger to a one-year, \$10 million contract Friday.

Pronger accepted the team's \$9.5 million qualifying offer and will get a \$500,000 signing bonus, Blues General Manager Larry Pleau said.

Pleau said the Blues talked with Pronger about a possible long-term deal, but deferred because of uncertainty about labor issues. The collective bargaining agreement with the players' association expires Sept. 15.

"It was a question of what would the landscape look like. The uncertainty put both sides in a peculiar position," Pleau said. "Both sides have spent a lot of time talking about it. Our eyes and ears are open."

Pronger had 14 goals and 40 assists in 61 games last season, a year after wrist and knee injuries kept him out of all but five games. Pronger, entering his 10th

Meanwhile, the Yankees have contributed to the buzz by having a scout follow the Diamondbacks and Johnson to Houston, even though he wasn't scheduled to pitch during the four-game series.

Yankees General Manager Brian Cashman was careful not to mention Johnson or anyone else by name when discussing potential trades in New York on Thursday, careful to not breach the league's tampering rules.

"If the deadline ended today, I don't see us doing anything," Cashman said.

New York, however, has made no secret of its need for more pitching in its quest for the World Series. Manager Joe Torre pointed out that several of the Yankees' starters, including Mike Mussina and Kevin Brown, have been hurt this season.

"If we add another starter, it gives us insurance," Torre said.

The addition of someone like Johnson could make the Yankees, who already have the AL's best record, even more formidable in October.

Johnson leads the majors in strikeouts (174), ranks third in opponents' batting average (.191) and fourth in ERA (2.68). He's pitched three complete games and a perfect game against Atlanta on May 18. His record would almost certainly be better than 10-8 if he had more support in the bullpen and from the league's fourth-worst offense.

"You would hate to lose a guy like him," Pedrique said. "For myself, though, I have to anticipate that's it going to happen."

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# Motoring Met

## Valent sprints for triple to complete cycle

The Associated Press

MONTREAL — Needing a triple to secure a spot in the New York Mets' record book, Eric Valent lined a pitch into the right-field corner and ran as fast as he could.

### NL Roundup

"I didn't know if I was going to be out by a mile or what," he said. "I was just running, and luckily I got in there."

Valent slid safely into third, beating the relay throw from first baseman Nick Johnson, and became the eighth player in Mets history to hit for the cycle in New York's 10-1 victory over the Montreal Expos on Thursday.

"Eric Valent had a whale of a day," Mets manager Art Howe said. "He hit for the cycle. Not too many people can say that they've done that."

Valent went 4-for-4 with a walk, drove in three runs and scored three times to become the fourth player in the majors this season to hit a single, double, triple and home run in a game, joining Milwaukee's Chad Moeller, Pittsburgh's Daryle Ward and Philadelphia's David Bell.

"It's cool," Valent said. "It's tough to do. You need a lot of luck. It's a nice thing you can say when you're done playing."

Mike Cameron homered twice for the Mets, who split the four-game series.

Valent made his first start in left field since May 30, and had a career day before a crowd of 20,042, second-largest at Olympic Stadium this season.

He singled following Cameron's two-run homer off Rocky Biddle (2-5) in the second, and doubled after Cameron's solo shot put the Mets up 5-0 in the third.

Valent tied his career high for hits with a two-run homer off Sun-Woo Kim in the fifth. Valent's RBI triple in the seventh off Roy Corcoran completed the Mets' first cycle since John Olerud on Sept. 11, 1997 — also against the Expos.

Al Leiter (7-3) allowed three hits and one run in six innings, improving to 6-1 in his last 10 starts.

Mike Piazza hit a two-run single in the second to cap a four-run outburst and Richard Hidalgo hit his 17th homer in the eighth as the Mets reached double digits in runs for the second time in the series.

Biddle, who began the season as the Expos' closer, allowed seven hits and five runs in three innings.

**Marlins 10, Phillies 1:** Alex Gonzalez hit his first career grand slam. Dontrelle Willis (8-6) pitched seven innings and host Florida swept Philadelphia at home for the fourth time in a row.

It was the Phillies' 14th consecutive loss in Miami, seven this year. The Marlins are 11-1 against the Phillies this season and have won 23 of the past 26 meetings.

**Braves 3, Pirates 2:** Rafael Furcal made up for two errors with a go-ahead single in visiting Atlanta's two-run, ninth-inning rally against closer Jose Mesa (2-1).

The Braves won their third in the four-game series and 15th in 20 overall.

Juan Cruz (3-0) pitched a perfect eighth



New York's Eric Valent slides into third with a triple to complete the eighth cycle in the history of the Mets. Montreal's Tony Batista leaps to grab a relay throw from the outfield.

for the victory before John Smoltz finished for his 23rd save.

**Cubs 4, Brewers 0:** Carlos Zambrano (10-6) gave up four hits over eight shutout innings and Sammy Sosa homered.

The visiting Cubs won three of four games in the series that drew 167,109 fans, the majority of them rooting for Chicago.

**Diamondbacks 6, Astros 4:** Lance Cormier (1-2) got his first major league victory in his third start and Shea Hillenbrand hit a two-run homer to lead visiting

Arizona to just its second win since the All-Star break.

**Dodgers 3, Rockies 2:** David Ross and Jayson Werth homered and Wilson Alvarez (6-3) pitched five innings for visiting Los Angeles. Eric Gagne got the final out in the eighth, and pitched a perfect ninth for his 30th save in 31 chances.

**Padres 7, Giants 4:** Phil Nevin singled in the go-ahead run in the sixth inning to help the host Padres overcome Barry Bonds' 684th career homer.

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# Rangers headed AL West

## Athletics overcome 4½-game deficit as Texas drops five of six in a week

The Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — It didn't take long for the Oakland Athletics to erase the largest lead of the season in the AL West.

The Athletics got another strong outing from their bullpen and some late clutch hitting

by Adam Melhuse and Erubiel Durazo to beat the Texas Rangers 7-6.

Thursday night.

Oakland moved into first place in the AL West for the first time since July 6. Just last Friday, Texas beat Oakland to take a 4½-game lead in the division.

The Athletics, who have made a habit of second-half surges in recent years, have reclaimed first place by winning six straight while the Rangers have lost three in a row and five of six. Oakland also improved to 7-3 against Texas this season.

Five A's relievers allowed one run in 6½ innings. Before Octavio Dotel gave up an RBI double in the ninth, Oakland's bullpen had thrown 20 scoreless innings.

Justin Duchscherev went 1½ innings, then left when his back tightened. Chris Hammond, Jim Mecir and Chad Bradford (5-4) combined to hold Texas until the offense regained the lead on Melhuse's RBI single in the eighth. Durazo added a sacrifice fly in the ninth.

"The bullpen really came through," said Oakland's Mark McLemore, who pitched in three runs and hit his first homer since

May 23, 2003. "Everyone who came in did what they wanted to do."

Dotel struck out David Dellucci looking with the tying run on second in the ninth inning for his seventh save since joining the A's from Houston.

It was a great way for Oakland to open a four-game series against the team that has led the division for nearly a month. The Rangers aren't panicking.

"It's still July, as far as I'm concerned, and there's no need to be discouraged," Rangers shortstop Michael Young said. "We've gone through some rough stretches this year and we've bounced back from every one of these and gotten better. This won't be any different."

The A's went ahead in the eighth when Durazo doubled off Carlos Almanzar (7-2). After a 32-minute rain delay, Almanzar scored on Melhuse's bloop single into short center field.

In other AL games Thursday:

**Mariners 6, Angels 5 (13):** Ichiro Suzuki had a career-high five hits and scored the winning run on Bret Boone's single in the 13th inning to snap Seattle's club-record 15-game road losing streak.

Suzuki, who extended his hitting streak to 21 games, doubled against rookie Kevin Gregg (3-1) in the eighth and scored on Boone's two-out single.

Anaheim's Bengie Molina tied it in the ninth with a two-run homer off closer Eddie Guardado.

Bobby Madritsch (2-0) allowed



Seattle Mariners left-hander Ron Villone unleashes a pitch against the Anaheim Angels during the first inning of Thursday night's game.

four hits over four scoreless innings in his third big-league appearance for Seattle.

**Orioles 9, Yankees 1:** Sidney Ponson pitched a four-hitter for his third straight win and Javy Lopez homered for visiting Baltimore.

Melvin Mora drove in four runs, Lopez had three RBIs and Miguel Tejada had two RBI-singles. Palko (6-12) struck out five and walked none in his third complete game.

Jose Contreras (8-5) pitched on three days' rest without success. The Orioles roughed him up for seven runs in 6½ innings.

**Tigers 3, White Sox 2:** Jason Johnson allowed three hits in six innings, handing visiting Chicago its fifth straight loss.

Johnson (8-8) won for the fourth time in five decisions and Ugueth Urbina saved his 16th game.

The White Sox dropped four games behind idle Minnesota in the AL Central.

Detroit catcher Ivan Rodriguez left the game in the third inning with back spasms.

**Devil Rays 2, Royals 0:** Rob Bell and three relievers combined on a four-hitter, and Tino Martinez had three hits and an RBI for hot Tampa Bay.

Bell (4-4) struck out three and walked two in 6½ scoreless innings. Danyels Beaz threw a perfect ninth for his 20th save.

The Devil Rays outscored the Royals 18-3 in sweeping the three-game series. Kansas City has lost seven straight.

# Yankees' bug draws an inquiry

BY MARILYN MARCHIONE  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — New York City health officials are questioning doctors for the New York Yankees about an intestinal parasite that may have sickened three players and at least one family member.

Yankees slugger Jason Giambi has said he is being tested for the parasite after being plagued by symptoms for the last couple months and being out of the lineup for almost a week. Giambi's wife, Kristian, and Yankees pitcher Kevin Brown also have been diagnosed with the parasitic illness, according to Giambi.

Right fielder Gary Sheffield was stricken in June with intestinal symptoms that were attributed at the time to "stomach flu" and Giambi originally blamed Sheffield for his own illness. Sheffield was so ill that his wife drove him to the ballpark for one game, but he was unable to play.

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene officials said their contact with the team's physician is not an investigation. They said they had been in touch with the team doctor earlier and are attempting to follow up with him and other doctors who are involved.

"At this point it is a private matter as opposed to a public health matter," department spokesman Sid Dinsay said Thursday.

Yankees General Manager Brian Cashman said Giambi would stay at home while the team awaited test results. Giambi was out of the lineup for the sixth straight game when the Yankees opened a homestand Thursday night.

Earlier Thursday, Cashman said he expected Giambi to be at the ballpark. Later, however, he said he got a call from the All-Star first baseman saying "he didn't feel well and thought he should stay at home."

Giambi sat for eight straight games around the time of his diagnosis on June 29, and has repeatedly said that he's been feeling weak.

"Until he finds out completely, he's curious, worried," Yankees manager Joe Torre said. "He's not feeling the way he should."

The suspected parasite, a human helminth, is usually seen in people from poor countries, not rich batters. It is a single-celled bug called a protozoan and causes an illness called amebiasis. Typical symptoms are bloody diarrhea and low abdominal pain, starting two days to up to a month after infection.

People usually catch it from traveling in a country where it is common, eating or drinking tainted food or water, or having close contact with someone who is infected. It's rarely fatal when properly treated, but it is a painful combination for about 2½ weeks, but it can cause a lot of misery.

# Rodriguez, Varitek suspended for brawl

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — New York Yankees third baseman Alex Rodriguez and Boston Red Sox catcher Jason Varitek were suspended for four games apiece and fined \$2,000 on Thursday, and other players were punished for their roles in a bench-clearing brawl last week.

Yankees pitcher Tanyon Sturtze and Red Sox outfielders Gabe Kapler and Troy Nixon were suspended for three games and fined \$1,000 by Bob Watson, major league baseball's vice president of on-field operations.

New York outfielder Kenny Lofton, Red Sox pitcher Curt Schilling and Red Sox designated hitter David Ortiz were fined \$500 each.

Rodriguez, the Yankees' All-Star third baseman, and Sturtze are appealing their suspensions. Varitek, Kapler and Nixon also plan to appeal, Red Sox spokesman Glenn Geffner said.



Briefs

The fight broke out in the top of the third inning at Fenway Park last Saturday after Bronson Arroyo hit Rodriguez with a pitch.

**City OKs Wrigley Field**

CHICAGO — City building inspectors gave the go-ahead for the Chicago Cubs to play at Wrigley Field on Friday after protective netting was installed to keep chunks of concrete from falling from the upper deck onto fans.

Buildings Commissioner Stan Kaderbek announced early Friday that inspectors accepted an interim safety inspection report the Cubs submitted to the city, clearing the way for the opening game of a weekend series against Philadelphia.

There have been three reports of falling concrete at the stadium

since June. No injuries have been reported.

**Phillies put Wagner on DL**

CHICAGO — The Philadelphia Phillies on Friday put left-handed closer Billy Wagner on the 15-day disabled list with a strained rotator cuff.

Wagner, a major offseason acquisition for the Phillies, also was on the DL for more than three weeks earlier this season because of a strained groin.

"He won't pick up a ball until the end of next week," Phillies manager Larry Bowa said Friday.

Wagner has 16 saves in 18 chances in 31 appearances this season. He is 3-0 with a 3.12 ERA and 46 strikeouts in 34½ innings.

**Royals' Gonzalez out for year**

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — Kansas City Royals outfielder Juan Gonzalez is expected to miss the rest of the season with a lower back injury. Gonzalez, a

two-time AL MVP, has been sidelined since May 22.

He was examined by spine specialist Dr. Robert Watkins in Los Angeles this week after experiencing discomfort while on a rehabilitation assignment with the rookie league Arizona Royals.

Gonzalez hit .276 with five homers and 17 RBIs in 33 games with the Royals before being injured.

**Texas' Cordero adds two years**

ARLINGTON, Texas — The Texas Rangers signed All-Star closer Francisco Cordero to an \$8 million, two-year extension on Thursday, avoiding the chance of arbitration this offseason and keeping him off the free-agent market the following winter.

Cordero, making \$2 million this season, received a \$250,000 bonus for signing a contract that will pay him \$3.75 million next season and \$4 million in 2006, agent Beau Streifel said.

Cordero is 2-0 with a 1.87 ERA and 30 saves in 32 chances.

## SPORTS



Valent becomes eighth in Mets history, fourth in majors this season, to hit for cycle, Page 30

# Great expectations

## After reaching playoffs in Parcells' first season, Cowboys face tougher time duplicating success

BY STEPHEN HAWKINS

The Associated Press

OKNARD, Calif. — Bill Parcells has already laid a winning foundation, needing only one season to get the Dallas Cowboys back into the playoffs.

Never in his three previous coaching stops, where he also took over teams coming off losing seasons, had Parcells gotten to the postseason so quickly. The breakthrough had always come in the second year.

So now, in Parcells' second season with the Cowboys, he isn't planning to spend a lot of time repeating himself or re-teaching.

"In a lot of respects I will be less patient this year because my expectations are that the players should know a heck of a lot more than they did going in last year," Parcells said. "These guys that have been here for a year, they need to know what to do."

Returning players know Parcells' no-nonsense approach. He doesn't tolerate a lackadaisical effort or silly mistakes, especially from players who've been with him before.

"There's no surprise," defensive tackle La'Roi Glover said.

"You know what to expect. You know how the routine of practice is going to be, how training camp is going to be run. It eliminates a lot of excuses. ... Get the job done and let's go about our business."

That means being ready from the get-go of camp Saturday, the first of 11 sets of two-a-day practices in 12 days.

But have the Cowboys done enough to better — or even equal — last year's 10-6 record? The NFC East now has coach Joe Gibbs back in Washington and Terrell Owens and other big additions in Philadelphia.

While some needs were filled, Dallas wasn't a big offseason spender even with plenty of money under the salary cap.

Two quarterbacks were added, 40-year-old Vinny Testaverde and former baseball player Drew Henson. Defensive end Marcelus Wiley was signed and receiver Keyshawn Johnson — like Testaverde, a former Parcells player — came in a trade from Tampa Bay for Joey Galloway.



Bill Parcells is ahead of his usual schedule. He took the New York Giants, New England Patriots and New York Jets to the playoffs in two seasons, but guided the Dallas Cowboys to the postseason in his first year.



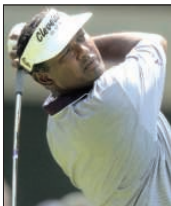
**As trade deadline approaches, Diamondbacks brace for loss of Johnson**

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**Athletics come out of battle with Rangers in first place in AL West**

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